



TALK OF THE TOWN / A12

What's it all about?

Israel's endless war with the Hezbollah, Hamas guerillas

WORLD / A21

Cool it, Europeans are told
shower often, drink lots of water as
record-breaking heatwave set to last
another week killed 31, melted roads

OPINION / A11

Randy David: In 'instrumentalizing' every
state institution to ensure her political survival,
President Arroyo has unwittingly exposed the
violent foundations of our unjust social order



Ex-communist finds purpose-driven cause

By Blanche S. Rivera

HE HAS COME A LONG WAY TO BE ALMOST
exactly where he was 30 years ago—a place of
mobilization for battle.

Renato P. Constantino, by his account a former
cadre of the National United Front Commission
of the Communist Party of the Philippines,

EX-COMMUNIST/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY

INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, July 23, 2006

10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 225 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Marines still restive; 2 colonels quit key posts

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE DECISION OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP
to start court-martial proceedings against 15
Marine officers, including two Medal of Valor
awardees, implicated in the purported coup plot
in February has again stirred a hornet's nest in
the Armed Forces' most battle-hardened unit.

MARINES/ A8



PARIS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: Long before the Hezbollah guerillas controlled southern Lebanon, that was the tagline of the country's capital Beirut. With its wide boulevards, the city is the banking center with the largest port in the eastern Mediterranean. Sited on an settlement dating back 5,000 years, the city has a population over 1 million, more than 18,000 of them Filipinos. Beirut is 41 kms from Israel's targets.

OFWs told: Pack up, go

WHAT'S INSIDE

Tiger Woods

leads the British Open
after 2 rounds, but
nipping at his heels is a
familiar rival aching to
get rid of that "pain in
the neck."

SPORTS/A28

GMA orders evacuation; Israelis mass at border

By Volt Contreras
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ISRAEL MASSED THOU-
sands more reservists on its
border with Lebanon yester-
day, prepared to mount in-
cursions aimed at destroying
Hezbollah positions and
warning that it would not
rule out a full-scale invasion
despite mounting calls for a
ceasefire. (Story in *The
World*, page A22)

As the conflict claimed its first Filipino
casualty—a domestic helper (See story
on page A16)—wounded after the Israeli
bombardment began last week—Presi-
dent Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the full
evacuation of Filipinos stranded in the
Hezbollah-controlled southern Lebanon
"in the face of unrelenting violence and
strife."

"Just pack up and go"—that was the
message the Department of Foreign Af-
airs sent out to the OFWs in southern
Lebanon, mainly based in the city of
Sidon, about 40 kilometers south of the
capital Beirut.

There were conflicting figures on the
number of Filipinos trapped in the south-
ern part of the country. The DFA estimat-
ed there were 2,000, but Special Envoy
Roy Cimatu said the bulk of Filipinos in
southern Lebanon had been evacuated
or been informed of the situation, and
that only 10 to 15 remained unaccount-
ed for.

OFWs TOLD/A9

DANGEROUS CROSSING (at right): Israel
is massing tanks and troops in the Israeli
town of Avivim adjacent to the Lebanese
border but is not going in all the way to
pursue its war on Hezbollah. The defense
ministry says only limited incursions are
planned at this time. (Above) Evacuees
pack boats like this one making its way to a
ship during a UN evacuation operation at
Tyre in southern Lebanon.



PARA KANG
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WORLD DIN
ANG PRESYO!



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in space, 'it's
beautiful'

WASHINGTON—YOU DON'T
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the willingness to risk your life.

A private Virginia firm that al-
ready has sent three super-rich
men to the international space
station for \$20 million each an-
nounced Friday it would offer an
even rarer adventure: A stroll
outside the space station for an
extra \$15 million.

"It is the holy grail of space-
flight; it's something very few of
the astronauts and cosmonauts
have done," said Eric Anderson,
chief executive of Space Adven-
tures Ltd.

Added former NASA space-
walker Kathy Thornton, who is
on the firm's advisory board: "It's
just sort of the feeling of free-
dom, that you are your own
satellite."

With the blessing of the Rus-
sian space agency, Space Adven-
tures is arranging for the first
spacewalking tourist to go into
orbit in about a year or so, Ander-
son said. The trip would involve a
launch in a Soyuz capsule, an
eight-day stay aboard the inter-
national space station and a 90-
minute spacewalk in a Russian
spacesuit. An extra month would
be added to the six-month cos-
monaut training.

The plan still needs the ap-
proval of the other 15 partners in
the international space sta-

FOR \$35M/A4

Look who's reading
the INQUIRER, and that's
straight talk direct
from the Queer 5

LIFESTYLE / C1



Why the 'Mr. Suave'
look is 'in' among
OFWs in the
Middle East

GLOBAL PINDY / A20

Flipping over
flip-flops, or
is it just
a f(l)eeeting
fancy?

SUNDAY BIZ / B1

THE STATE OF THE NATION

GMA is 'Superman' on economy, but not in politics

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Daxim L. Lucas

(Second of a series)

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
were Superman, the economy would
be her source of power and politics
would be her kryptonite.

On the eve of her annual State of the

Nation Address, there is a general upbeat
perception in interviews conducted by
the *Inquirer* that she has passed her eco-
nomic goals of fixing the budget deficit,
boosting confidence in the economy and
creating more jobs with flying colors.

There is also a feeling that Ms. Arroyo
has failed miserably in her political ob-
jectives—to gain the trust of the masses,

TEAM Report
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

reconcile with her political foes and ne-
gotiate an end to the communist and Mo-
ro insurgencies.

"Fiscal management is her biggest
achievement," said Donald Dee, who
heads the Philippine Chamber of Com-
merce and Industry. "You can see she is
very focused on this one."

Francis Chua, president of the Federa-
tion of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of
Commerce and Industry Inc., said the
President was moving closer to a zero-

budget deficit in two more years.

"Her achievements become more re-
markable in the face of the global and lo-
cal problems that she has had to deal
with in the last five years," Chua said.

While the President might have short-
comings in politics, she should still be
commended for her efforts in trying and

GMA/A8



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains which may trigger flashfloods or landslides.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: MEL LAWRENCE DE GUZMAN, PD RESEARCH/97/22/06

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.phText us your feedback: inquirer_news@inquirer.com.ph or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Rain	Other	Rain	Rain
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Albay	Rain	Rain
Iloilo	Cloudy with Rains	Antique	Cloudy with Rains	Cloudy with Rains
Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Capiz	Cloudy with Rains	Cloudy with Rains
Quezon	Cloudy with Rains	Marikina	Cloudy with Rains	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rain	San Juan	Cloudy with Rains	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rain	San Jose	Cloudy with Rains	Cloudy with Rains
Cebu	Rain	San Carlos	Cloudy with Rains	Cloudy with Rains

Coast Guard exec, 5 NPA rebels killed

8 hurt in 1st major Bicol clash since declaration of all-out war

By Bobby Labalan, Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON CITY—FIVE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS and a Coast Guard officer were killed and seven others wounded when New People's Army rebels launched simultaneous attacks on the police and traffic management offices and Philippine Coast Guard station in Matnog town yesterday.

The attack was carried out by about 200 NPA rebels who commandeered two buses, two jeeps, an ambulance and two motorboats, said Senior Insp. Jesus Callada, police chief of Matnog, a coastal town on the tip of the Bicol peninsula.

The rebels attacked before dawn yesterday, firing on officers at the police station and the Coast Guard station beside it, triggering a lengthy gun battle.

Cafgu volunteer troops and a group of soldiers waiting for a ferry ride backed police in repulsing the assault, forcing the guerrillas to withdraw after two hours, said local Army commander Brig. Gen. Arsenio Arugay.

Tactical offensive

"Unfortunately for [the rebels], there were some troops present in the town at the time of the attack. They suffered heavily on this tactical offensive," said Arugay.

Armando Penello, chief of the Matnog Coast Guard station, died in the exchange of gunfire, said Lucita Madarang, the Bicol director of the Maritime Industry Authority.

Five NPA rebels were killed and four Matnog policemen, the chief of the traffic management group, another Coast Guard officer and several civilians were seriously wounded in the attack that authorities said was the first major rebel offen-

sive in Bicol since the government declared an all-out war against the insurgents.

Callada said the attack started at around 3:45 a.m. when the rebels showed up at the police office on board two buses, two jeeps and an ambulance. Another group arrived at the Matnog ferry terminal on board two motor launches.

Callada said the insurgents immediately started firing using high-caliber weapons, grenades and bombs.

There were only eight members of the Matnog police at the station at the time of the attack but the rebels failed to overpower them, Callada said.

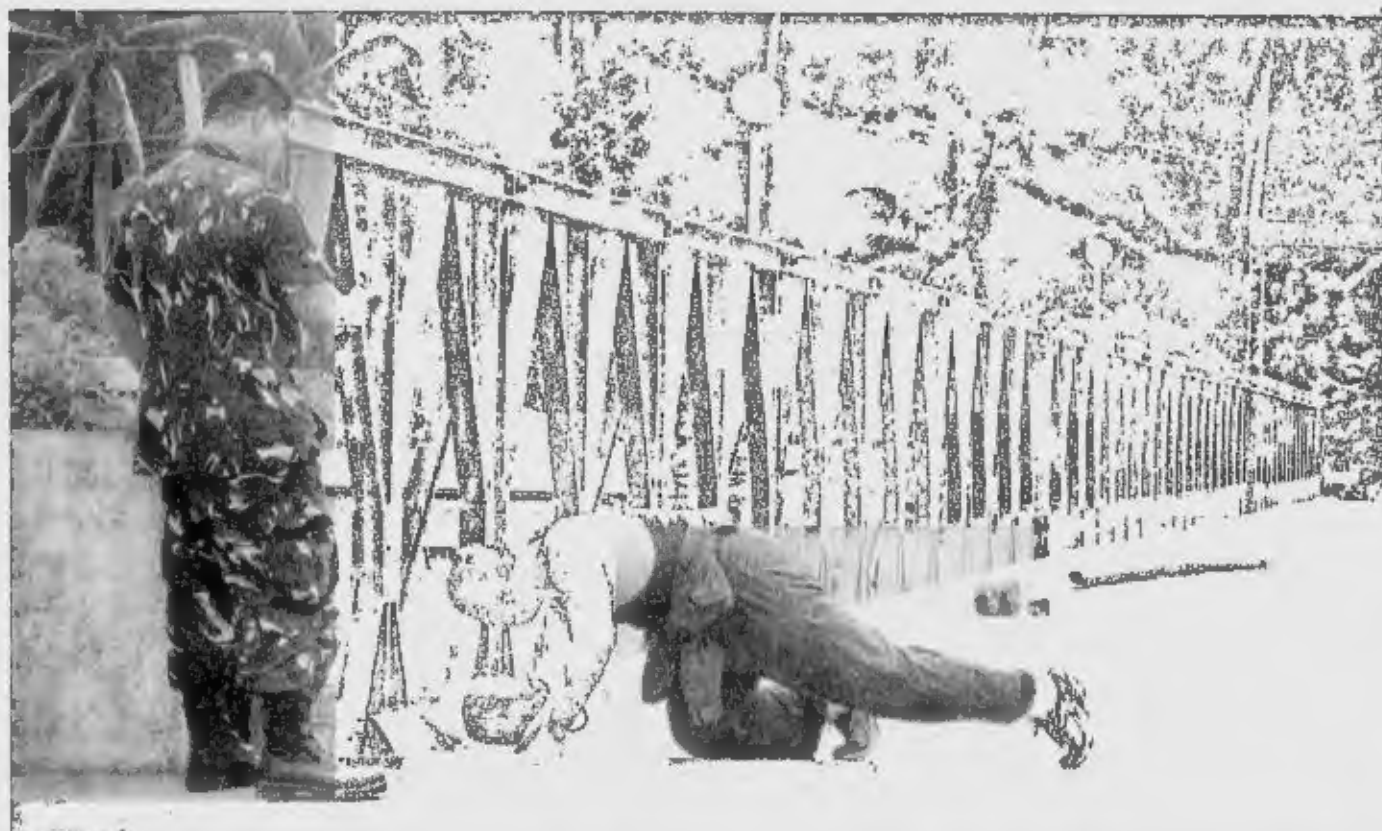
The firefight lasted until after 6 a.m. when reinforcements from the Philippine National Police Provincial Command led by Senior Supt. Joel Regondola and Army soldiers arrived, forcing the attackers to withdraw.

Callada said three members of the NPA were killed instantly after they were peppered with Armalite bullets while attempting to enter the police station.

The guerrillas took their two other slain comrades and the wounded in their escape, he said.

Three firearms, two improvised explosive devices and an unexploded rifle grenade were later recovered.

While the police station was being attacked, other rebels were firing at the Coast Guard office in



MILITARY BOMB DISPOSAL experts defuse several improvised bombs left on the steel Tablak Bridge outside Matnog by NPA rebels who attacked the police and Coast Guard stations in the town.

PHOTO BY JESUS CRISTO SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

the ferry terminal where Penello was killed and PO1 Nelson Haso was wounded.

Another group of rebels attacked the TMG office where SPO2 Edgardo Masarate was wounded. Still another group harassed a Cafgu detachment less than a kilometer from the police station.

The rebels withdrew when they heard helicopters carrying Army and police personnel approaching, Callada said.

He identified the wounded police personnel as SPO1 Emiliano Ramos, SPO3 Henry Colico, PO1 Daffie Haloc and PO1 Edward Gealone.

A civilian identified as Tatang

who served as a cook at the police station was also wounded.

A municipal councillor from Baleno, Masbate, who was waiting for ride to his province, was also reportedly wounded in the crossfire.

Repulsing the attacks

Arugay said 19 Army soldiers had just arrived at the Matnog port from Manila where they had taken part in a military exercise.

They were returning to their units in Samar and were waiting to take the ferry when the attack occurred.

"Their presence greatly helped in repulsing the attackers," Arugay said.

Bicol police director Senior Supt. Victor Boco praised the members of the Matnog police for their gallant stand in defending the station and assured them that they would be given promotions and recognition.

"It was a heroic act which deserves proper recognition," he said.

New PNP Director General Oscar Calderon was scheduled to go to Matnog today to give the awards to the Matnog police officers.

The Solcom immediately dispatched four Air Force helicopters and launched a pursuit operation against the rebels who fled in the direction of Casigu-

ran. Meanwhile, fighting between government forces and NPA rebels broke out again in Quezon province, leaving one Army soldier dead on Friday, a police report said.

The report identified the slain soldier as Cpl. Lawrence Layog, a member of Alpha Co. of the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion.

On Tuesday, another group of soldiers engaged an estimated 20 heavily armed communist guerrillas in Sitio Villaminda, Barangay Sto. Niño, in Lopez town.

No casualties were reported on both sides after the 20-minute fire fight, another police report said.

AN OPEN LETTER TO SENATOR JUAN FLAVIER AND REPRESENTATIVE CYNTHIA VILLAR

For one month now, we have brought to national attention our collective indignation against the callousness of the Board of Regents of the Philippine Normal University in installing Atty. Lutgardo Barbo as President.

We have long endured your silence and indifference on this issue. We find your lack of interest strange, if not disappointing, considering your avowed personal commitment to Philippine education. Aren't your committee headships on higher education for the Senate and the House individually borne out of genuine concern for our learning institutions?

Reaching you personally we have tried without success.

We have always taken pride of PNU as no ordinary government agency; her state of affairs defines the condition of the whole educational system in the country. PNU supplies the lifeblood of our schools. Her triumph is a national triumph; her malady becomes a national malady.

The conscious importance that PNU holds makes us expect your individual and active presence in the BOR meetings, particularly where the issue at hand is the choice for the next president. Your absence from the PNU BOR is abominable. **Beyond the legal acumen of your representatives, we expect no less than the moral rectitude of your high offices which after all are accountable to our people.** We missed your statesmanship and wisdom which could have enlightened us all.

That both of you have allowed your representatives who lack public accountability to make landmark decisions on your behalf, such significant certitude as choosing a President, eloquently bespeaks of the little regard you have for the Philippine Normal University that has guided the course of the nation, and which continues to steer her destiny way long after your legislative stints have ended.

As we demand for your moral explanation to the PNU community and to our people who have placed you where you are now, we challenge you to stand and help save PNU and Philippine education by the power of your moral leadership, political maturity, and genuine commitment to serve our country.

SAVE PNU, SAVE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION
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Purpose-driven lives build a purpose-driven nation.

By Norman Bordadora

He said the meeting at his house was arranged by "a friend" who asked him for assistance on a viable venue for the group's conference. He declined to identify the "friend."

In the light of its findings, the ASEP recommended that other "similarly built" sections of the Terminal 3 ceiling be examined, MIAA said.



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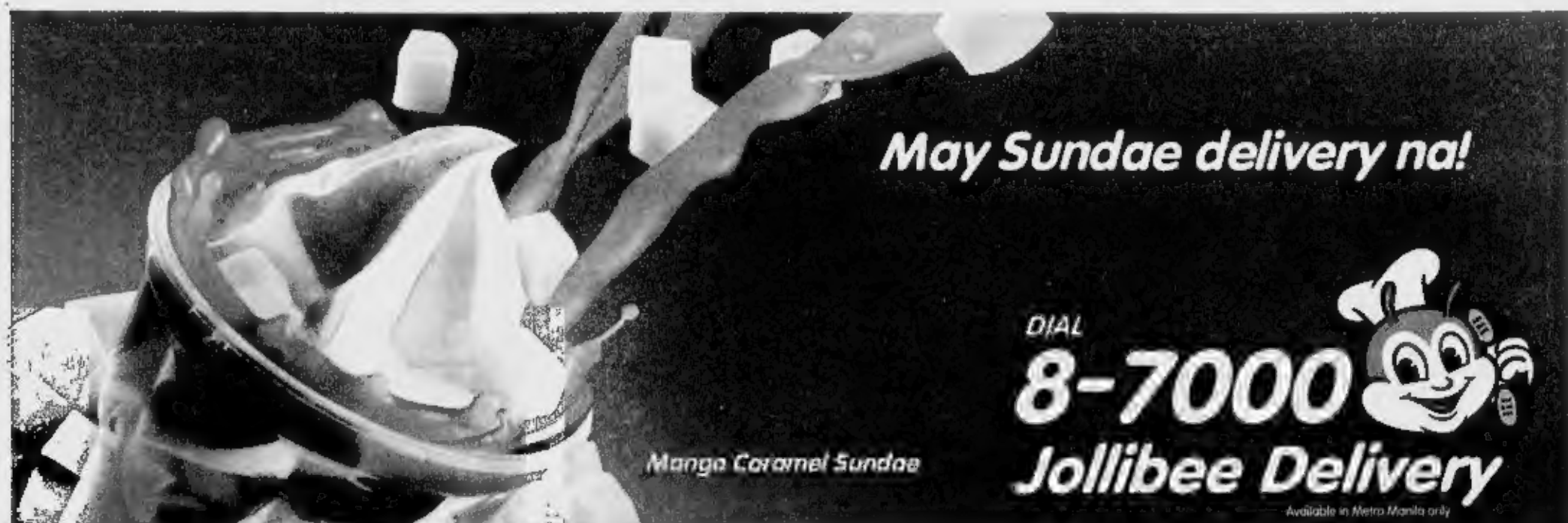
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Ex-communist finds ...

From page A1

is now the coordinator of the National Purpose Driven Congress, an event that will launch the Global PEACE Plan to fight poverty, corruption, disease, illiteracy and spiritual emptiness.

The Global PEACE Plan by Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life," will be introduced to church workers, political leaders, nongovernment organizations and concerned individuals in the Philippines during the congress on July 25 and 26 at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

This is the first time that Warren, whose book has sold over 100 million copies worldwide, will be in the Philippines after releasing his bestseller.

The Global PEACE Plan is a lay, grassroots-based movement that is aimed at mobilizing the world's 2.3 billion Christians to address the five global ills.

PEACE stands for Plant churches to address spiritual darkness, Equip servant leaders to address corrupt leadership, Assist the poor to address extreme poverty, Care for the sick to address pandemic diseases, and Educate the next generation to address illiteracy and lack of education.

'Exactly the same'

Constantino is mobilizing around 20,000 people for the congress.

"What you do in the [revolutionary] movement and what you do in the church are exactly the same. The only difference is the cause for which you're doing it," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Constantino joined the CPP in 1977 and started out as a young courier. He climbed up the party

ladder to become a full-time cadre during the time when the rebel force was at its peak and organizing the most important mobilizations in Metro Manila, including an infiltration of the crowd during Pope John Paul II's visit in 1981.

He ended up in detention in Camp Crame in 1988.

"If I could give my life to that calling, why not here where the call is also to mobilize people for a cause?" he said.

Reformations

The Global PEACE Plan started in the United States last year.

Supported by his Saddleback Church in California, Warren is now making the rounds of Asia to introduce the movement whose goals are, at the very least, ambitious.

"Reformations always start with the peasants; they don't start with the elites," Warren said in a statement.

It is a belief that Constantino shares—one that fueled his passion in the revolutionary movement for 10 years.

Coming from a poor but religious family in Cavite, Constantino grew up believing that if he remained a good person despite trials, the heavens would smile on him and change his fate.

Being the eldest in the family, he worked his way through college, laboring as a factory hand and a garbage collector. He earned P8 a day, gave half of it to his parents, and could afford to eat only the 25-centavo *camoteng kahoy* for years.

In 1975, his sister Ruth was diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease—a condition that required tests which the Constantino family could not afford.

Lacking the P350 needed for her tests, Ruth died.

Questioning God

It was this loss that led Constantino to question God. He began to hate the system of government, even the Church, which could not help poor people like his family.

The disillusioned young man eventually joined a regular study group of youth activists who discussed the works of Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and Mao Zedong.

Spurred by the idea of goods and services owned by the community and available to all as needed, he devoted his life to the revolutionary movement.

In the mid-1980s, when the CPP was cleansing its ranks of suspected deep-penetration agents, Constantino was among those at the party's helm. But the purge, which killed

around 3,000 of his comrades, nagged at his conscience.

"I became confused. What right did we have to determine the fate of others when we ourselves were not beyond reproach? What was once a choice assignment for me became a living hell. It was then that I said, 'If there is a God, He would take me out of this,'" he said.

His "rescue" came in the form of an arrest in August 1988. He was detained at Camp Crame for over a year.

Kindness

In prison, Constantino found kindness in his arresting officer, then Capt. Balligi Tira (now superintendent of the Philippine National Police Academy).

At first he thought it was just a ploy to break him down, but when Tira's father and brother, who were pastors at the Greenhills Christian Fellowship, started visiting him and telling him about God's love and forgiveness, he submitted.

In an affidavit, he admitted his involvement with the CPP—but declined the government's request for him to turn state witness.

Once, brought before then President Corason Aquino, Constantino was asked what he would do if he were set free. He said he would do the same thing—serve the people.

"I was serving the people then, but I was serving them out of hatred. Now, the propelling spirit is love, and all I want to do is to obey God's will," he said.

Out in the open

These days, the rebel who spent 10 years doing undercover work for the CPP is out in the open, discussing his belief in Christ with as much zeal as when he quoted Marx, Lenin and Mao.

The man, whose turnaround the military doubted and his former comrades assailed, can now speak with ease about his transformation, invoking God's mercy and forgiveness.

"My past still haunts me like an uninvited guest," Constantino said in a piece he wrote for the book "This is my Story."

"In times of trial and discouragement, I find myself weeping, and in my tears, I find our Lord faithfully encouraging me to keep on," he said.

As one who found purpose in his struggles, Constantino is more than willing to lead the congress that he hopes will also lead others to find their purpose and help overcome the spiritual emptiness, poverty, corruption, illiteracy and disease that beset every nation.

"I used to go after people to invite them to join rallies. Now, I'm mobilizing again, but for a higher cause," he said.

For inquiries on tickets to the National Purpose Driven Congress, call 920-1290, 920-1356, or 412-4737 to 42.



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Handheld Ultrasound: Entering Doctor's Offices, Small Modality, Big Impact on Health and Economy

Bernardita Calayan-Brion, MD, FPOGS, FPSUOG, FPCS

In these times of economic crisis when every Filipino's peso should be put into useful and worthwhile endeavor, the availability of new handheld ultrasound scanners in every doctor's clinic will greatly help the economy, as well as preserve the life and health of the people. With the exodus of doctors and nurses to the United States and other foreign countries, the effects of the deterioration and even the lack of an effective health care system will be felt strongly in the next few years.

These lightweight, handheld ultrasound devices have been available in the world market for ten years and now exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Denmar Enterprises, are a breakthrough in assisting physical examination at the bedside. Their use can help save on the necessary manpower and resources.

Miniaturization makes its impact on the medical field.

These units are unique because they empower the physician to diagnose a variety of disorders during an initial patient encounter right in their clinics, instead of sending the patients to hospital radiology departments at higher cost. Proper referral can then commence immediately, saving time and money for the much needed evaluation and treatment.

The country's new physicians are often exposed to the technology during medical school and/or residency, where ultrasound is beginning to be as common as the stethoscope and basic training with the use of ultrasound is now being undertaken. There is indeed a role for ultrasound in the medical curriculum if not yet incorporated.

Handheld ultrasound systems prove their importance to the health care industry every day across a wide array of patient care settings. Not intended to replace standard systems, they provide immediate visual information that improves diagnosis and treatment. They are useful and versatile tools for radiologists/sonologists and a growing contingent of other clinicians in and out of the hospital setting. Urologists, thoracovascular surgeons, neonatal neurologists, internists, gastroenterologists, cardiologists, surgeons, family doctors and even veterinarians have found the accessibility and usefulness of using them in their clinical practice. These handheld units will eventually become the doctors' modern day stethoscopes, and will soon replace them.

Its use in obstetrics makes it the obstetrician's Doppler and stethoscope. Early in the pregnancy (at about seven weeks), it is used to determine the size of the uterus or the fetus, to detect multiple or ectopic pregnancy, to confirm that the fetus is alive (or viable), or to confirm the due date. In the presence of first trimester bleeding, it is important in the early diagnosis of ectopic pregnancies and molar pregnancies. Toward the middle of the pregnancy (at about 16-20 weeks), ultrasound may be used to confirm fetal growth, to reveal defects in the anatomy of the fetus, and to check the placenta. Toward the end of pregnancy, it may be used to evaluate fetal size, position, growth, or to check the placenta. The use of tape measure to measure fundic height and estimate fetal weight is crude, misleading and inaccurate. Unlike x rays, ultrasound does not produce any harmful radiation and does not pose a risk to the mother or the fetus. It has progressively become an indispensable obstetric tool and plays an important role in the care of every pregnant woman.

Obstetric surgical emergencies are also addressed when time is essential for patient survival. In far-flung regions of the country where there is real scarcity of well-equipped hospitals and clinics, the use of these handheld units is practical and life saving. During the night, when hospitals/diagnostic clinics are closed, obstetricians equipped with these units can easily diagnose and manage bleeding conditions in patients who need emergency attention or surgery, such as ectopic pregnancy and placenta previa. Fetal malpresentation (i.e. breech, transverse lie) at the emergency, labor and delivery rooms can be managed properly, with the appropriate surgical intervention, without sacrificing the lives of the mother and the baby, thus saving time and financial resources. Abortion cases with profuse vaginal bleeding can undergo dilatation and curettage immediately, thus avoiding maternal death and morbidity due to severe blood loss.

In remote health centers, a quick scan of pregnant women in labor may identify patients who need to be brought to a hospital for delivery and management, avoiding maternal morbidity and mortality in home deliveries. The lightweight portable ultrasound unit offers the advantages of portability and access, ease of use and increased sensitivity. And depending on circumstances, the examination can be done by a sonographer, a radiologist, or a physician trained in its use. It may prove to be necessary for every tertiary health center to have a handheld unit and the examination performed by trained personnel.

In the emergency setting, pneumothoraces are the most common serious intrathoracic injury following blunt trauma, and are a common cause of preventable morbidity and mortality. Medical personnel with handheld units responding to an injured patient in a hostile environment can quickly assess the victim and attempt to exclude potentially life-threatening injuries without the benefit of standard imaging modalities, such as radiography. This increases the chances of early management and patient survival. They also aid in the performance of thoracentesis.

Other procedures commonly performed in the emergency setting include: FAST (focused abdominal sonography for trauma) examinations to evaluate hemoperitoneum secondary to blunt abdominal trauma, pleural and pericardial effusion in trauma patients, and evaluation of aneurysms of the aorta. Patients who may benefit from a quick ultrasound exam are those who arrive in the emergency department in full cardiac arrest and with no pulse, but EKG monitor leads reveal electrical activity. Physicians need to determine immediately whether there is organized cardiac motion using an ultrasound exam, so necessary resuscitative measures can be done immediately or not.

Ultrasound can also be used to examine other internal organs, such as the liver, gallbladder, kidney, and heart. The procedure can be useful in detecting cysts, tumors, and cancer of gallbladder, kidney, liver, uterus, ovaries, and breasts. They serve as adjunctive aids in performing breast tissue biopsies or fine needle aspiration biopsies. There are no special precautions recommended before an ultrasound examination.

How about economics? The portability of the system enhances its utility. Clinicians who have used them in their practice are uniformly enthusiastic about their utility and value. Portability can save money in the long run. A physician might work in many different clinics, so if each clinic requires its own ultrasound system, that's a large capital investment that sits idle while the physician is elsewhere. One handheld ultrasound unit can serve all clinics, reducing capital investment and increasing cost efficiency. With a hand-carried system, it's battery-operated; therefore you can set it bedside immediately and probably decrease the examination time. This can change a patient's general exam.

I believe this technology offers a powerful diagnostic tool for use in every doctor's clinic, especially in remote villages and provinces and hostile settings where portable radiography is not available or practical. Ultrasound may mean an end to the classic stethoscope. They will help save and improve the lives of our countrymen.

For inquiries, contact 09175454076 or (02)524-4446. Denmar Enterprises will be holding another workshop on OB Prenatal Ultrasound Scanning using these handheld units on July 30, 2006 at the showroom. Please text or call for reservation. Limited seats available.



Palmhandle Mechanical Sector Scanner



Palmtop Mechanical Sector Scanner



PalmSmart Convex Array Scanner

From page A1

tion—including NASA—but Anderson said Russian space officials are confident they can get the OK.

In Space Adventures' news release, Russian manned spaceflight chief Alexei Krasnov said space tourists could "potentially perform" a spacewalk.

No comment from NASA

NASA, which has grudgingly accepted Russian-initiated space tourism, would not comment on the proposal.

"They're going to be right outside the door for an hour-and-a-half tethered to the ship," Anderson said. "Of course, they will have a cosmonaut with them."

A spacewalking tourist is "probably unwise," said one former astronaut, who almost died during a February 1997 fire aboard the Russian Mir space station.

"Common sense tells you that you want professionals trained to the nth degree to do jobs like astronaut jobs," said Jerry Linenger, who was the first American to wear a Russian spacesuit in a spacewalk. "Do you want to get in an airplane with a (professional) pilot and a co-pilot who never flew before?"

Linenger said if a spacewalking tourist does something wrong, that person could endanger the cosmonaut accompanying him. And if the cosmonaut has a prob-

lem, the tourist would not be much help, he said.

Great thrills

But others among the more than 150 people who have spacewalked say it offers great thrills.

"I would recommend it to anyone," said Dan Bursch, a former astronaut who lived on the station in 2001 and 2002 and made two spacewalks in the Russian suits.

"Just about anything that could go wrong, the other spacewalker could go help them," Bursch said. "You really have to try hard to screw up."

But you can kill yourself if you do something wrong on a spacewalk, said former astronaut Jay Apt. A spacewalker could become untethered and float away or depressurize the spacesuit and die.

So beautiful

Former astronaut Tom Jones, who is on Space Adventures advisory board, said spacesuits are reliable, but the biggest risk is "doing something stupid inside because you are not on top of the situation."

"If you don't have that comfort level with that suit, that's when you can get a panic attack," he said.

In the end, he added, a spacewalk is worth the risk.

"It's such a beautiful experience physically," said Jones, author of the memoir "Sky Walking." "It brought tears to my eyes." AP

For \$35M, take a walk in space ...

'Leak will spoil RP nurses' chances'

THE LEAKAGE CONTROVERSY in last month's nursing licensure examinations may have spoiled the Philippine bid to establish a test center in the country for Filipinos wanting to enter the nursing profession in the United States.

According to Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago, the Professional Regulatory Commission, the Philippine Nursing Association, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration have been trying for years to persuade the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to allow the holding of its licensure exams, the NCLEX, in Manila.

The NCLEX, or the National Council Licensure Examination, is the last step in the eligibility process for nurses aiming to work in the US.

It is the equivalent of the Philippines' own nursing licensure test, Santiago said.

At present, the NCLEX may be taken outside the US only in American Samoa, Aus-

tralia, Canada, Germany, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the Virgin Islands.

"India and South Korea have NCLEX centers. This is one of the reasons why their nursing graduates are finding it easier to pass the test and enter the US nursing profession," Santiago said.

"Our nursing graduates have to travel abroad to take the NCLEX, and this tends to create accompanying disadvantages and pressures," he said.

Santiago said the NCSBN had been reluctant to allow the conduct of the NCLEX in the Philippines "precisely because of misgivings about the ability to protect the integrity of documents here."

He said the NCLEX is administered by the NCSBN through the Pearson Professional Centers, an independent global network of testing facilities. Philip C. Tuba

Regional workers get P6-P20 pay hike

THE REGIONAL WAGE BOARDS IN BICOL, CALABARZON, CAGAYAN VALLEY and Central Luzon have separately agreed to increase the daily wages of private sector workers after a series of consultations with workers and employers.

Workers in Bicol are to get an increase of P11 to P20 a day, depending on the town or city where their employers hold business.

Board secretary Rosendo Belo said the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board also agreed to incorporate in the regular wage the P15 daily cost-of-living allowance (Cola) granted to the workers last year under Wage Order No. 10.

As a result, the daily wage of workers in some areas of Bicol could reach as much as P220 a day.

Belo said that in some areas like Pili and Briga City in Camarines Sur and Daraga and Tabaco City in Albay, the new wage hike will be implemented on a staggered basis.

The first 50 percent will be implemented in February 2007 and the other half in May 2007.

The regional wage board of the Calabarzon region has approved an average of P10.50 increase for workers in Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon.

Under the new wage order, to take effect in the first week of August, workers employed in the growth corridor area—composed of three cities and eight municipalities in Cavite, Laguna and Rizal provinces—are to get a P6 to P18 increase.

This will push the daily minimum wage in the region to between P167 and P272, compared to the current P149 to P266.

Workers in Bacoor and Imus towns in Cavite; San Pedro and Biñan in Laguna; and Cainta and Taytay in Rizal, will get a P10 increase.

These towns are considered "extended metropolitan areas" because of their proximity to Metro Manila.

Calabarzon is considered the most economically progressive region outside Metro Manila. It hosts most of the country's industrial estates and science parks.

Except for Lucena City, workers in Quezon province and other parts of the Calabarzon classified as "resource-based areas" will only get a P3 to P8 a day increase. Sixteen towns will get a P6 to P14 increase.

Employees in Lucena will get an P18 wage hike.

The wage hike order also covers workers employed based on how much they produce, or the piecework system.

The board allowed export companies that earn at least 50 percent of their profits from export sales to defer the implementation of the wage increase for not more than one year after the new wage order takes effect.

Private sector workers in Cagayan Valley, meanwhile, will get a P10 increase in their minimum daily wage, to take effect 15 days after the wage order is published in newspapers. Bobby Q. Labalan and Marian Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Estanislao Caldez, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, July 23, 2006

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

God the Shepherd

"Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the sheep of my pasture!"

This is the message of Yahweh, God of Israel, to the shepherds in charge of my people, "You have scattered my sheep and driven them away instead of caring for them. Now I will deal with you because of your evil deeds."

"I will gather the remnant of my sheep from every land to which I have driven them and I will bring them back to the grasslands. They will be fruitful and increase in number. I will appoint shepherds who will take care of them. No longer will they fear or be terrified. No one will be lost."

Yahweh further says, "The day is coming when I will raise up a king who is David's righteous successor. He will rule wisely and govern with justice and righteousness. That will be a grandiose era when Judah will enjoy peace and Israel will live in safety. He will be called Yahweh-our-justice!"

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Christ our peace

In Christ Jesus and by his blood, you who were once far off have come near.

For Christ is our peace, he who has made the two peoples one, destroying in his own flesh the wall—the hatred—which separated us. He abolished the Law with its commands and precepts. He made peace in uniting the two peoples in him, creating out of the two one New Man. He destroyed hatred and reconciled us both to God through the cross, making the two one body.

He came to proclaim peace; peace to you who were far off, peace to the Jews who were near. Through him we—the two peoples—approach the Father in one Spirit.

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

He pitied them

The apostles returned and reported to Jesus all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, "Go off by yourselves to a remote place and have some rest." For there were so many people coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a secluded area by themselves.

But people saw them leaving and many could guess where they were going. So, from all the towns they hurried there on foot, arriving ahead of them.

As Jesus went ashore he saw a large crowd, and he had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began a long teaching session with them.

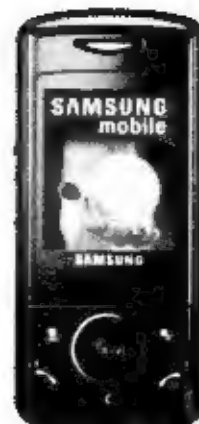
Commentary
Jeremiah tears into the bad shepherds of Israel who care nothing for the people they are supposed to protect, lead and serve. They scatter the sheep, but there will come one who will gather, and increase the flock and abide with them so that they do not know fear or lack, and none will go missing. There will be a righteous shoot and his name will be justice.

Jesus is our justice. In him we have been brought back home. He is peace, reconciling us to God and one another; and in the Spirit we are as close to the Father as Jesus is! Jesus today brings us to an out-of-the-way place and rests with us. Jesus and his disciples leave in a boat but people are so desperate for this abiding place of refuge they find in Jesus that they cut them off in their retreat. Jesus is the good shepherd and in pity, he goes to the crowd. With the disciples have we learned such pity and spend time with those who are most in need?

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PAGADIAN CITY — An antimineral group has accused Canadian-based Toronto Ventures Inc. (TVI) of committing human rights violations in the gold mine concession it operates in the Subanen lumad ancestral domain in Zamboanga del Norte.

The Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) alleged that TVI had sent its security forces to attack a couple and destroy farm lands owned by the Subanen lumad opposed to mining activities in Canatuan. "Ilage in Siocon."

A TVI official has

denied the allegations.

The ATM, a coalition of nongovernment and people's organizations seeking a moratorium on large-scale mining, claimed that on June 24, TVI security forces demolished a house owned by Manolita and Loloy Galvez. The couple reportedly suffered injuries when they resisted.

ATM said the couple was "beaten up and injured" by TVI security forces, whom villagers identified as being members of the Special Citizen Armed Auxiliary (SCAA).

ATM also accused

TVI of destroying the farmlands in the mining company's concession area and threatening to destroy the land of other farmers refusing to leave the mining area.

"We have taken note of different human rights violations of mining companies [against] communities and this is the latest of them. We condemn the way the indigenous peoples are being treated and the government's apathetic stance on disgusting incidents like these," ATM national coordinator Jay-bee Garganera said in a statement.

Rocky Dimaculangan, the TVI public affairs director, said the ATM allegations were "untrue" and "blatant lies."

Dimaculangan said the military did provide security for the mining firm but that soldiers were not involved in the demolition.

Demolition

He said it was the Siocon Subanen Association Inc. (SSAI), led by Timuay Erdulfo Comisas, which demolished the house of the Galvez couple inside the TVI mining concession area in Canatuan.

"It was the indigenous people themselves led by Comisas who took the initiative to dismantle the shanty after years of negotiation with the couple who demanded P1.5 million compensation from TVI and refused TVI's offer of P215,000," Dimaculangan told the INQUIRER.

He said Comisas was a member of the Subanen council of elders.

Based on a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) it signed with the government, TVI was given a mining concession of 508 hectares within the 6,523-ha Subanen ancestral domain in Canatuan where small-scale miners have been extracting gold since the 1990s.

According to Dimaculangan, when TVI started operations in mid-2004, the company negotiated with around 150 small-scale miners to relocate. He said TVI even offered them "disturbance compensation."

Holdover group

Dimaculangan said the Galvez couple belonged to a holdover group of small-scale miners which continues to operate in the TVI mining concession area.

He said the Galvezes were not members of the Subanen lumad community.

On the issue of human rights violations, Dimaculangan said TVI had asked the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to investigate the demolition incident.

"We feel that the independent investigations will prove both that the [indigenous leaders] acted within their rights and that the security personnel deployed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines did nothing improper when they intervened to prevent any injury on both sides," a TVI statement said. Michael R Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NA NAMAN?!



"Di na tayo natuto ng leksyon!"

Nakakapagod na ang mga political issues na paulit-ulit lang naman. Tapos na ang mga isyu na yan, bakit pa nila ibinabalik? Kung magpapatuloy ang ganyang sitwasyon, aral ako ng aral, baka wala naman akong magandang future.

May trabaho pa kayang naghihintay sa akin?

Ivan R. Cruz
Student

**TAMA NA ANG GULO.
PARA TAYO'Y UMASENSO.**

MASA BANSA
KAKAISA AT PAGBABAG

Cops, militants vow peaceful Sona rallies

By Luigi A. del Puerto

MILITANT GROUPS and police agreed yesterday to ensure that protest actions would be peaceful during President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address tomorrow.

After a breakfast meeting, both sides emerged optimistic that their respective positions had been understood. Everyone agreed to respect the people's right to stage protests against the President. On the one hand, and the police's right to keep an eye on the demonstrators on the other.

Euphoric

"I'm totally euphoric," National Capital Region Police Office Director Vidal Querol said. "I'm very happy that even before the Sona, there is already a meeting of the minds and we are driven by a common interest to hold (it) in a very peaceful manner."

Querol said he did not expect violent clashes on Monday.

who attended the breakfast meeting at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City were Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan; Rep. Renato Magtubo of the Partido ng Manggagawa, and Linggoy Alcauz of the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino.

Right to protest

"The talks were good," said Magtubo. "They respect our right to protest, and we also respect their right to do their job. If everybody does what is agreed upon... we don't think anything untoward will take place."

It was agreed that one side of Commonwealth Avenue would be allotted for the protesters and the other side for commuters and motorists, Querol said. During the meeting, militants assured the senior security officials they would police their own ranks.

Reyes said Bayan was granted a permit and would follow what was stated on it. "So there is no re-

son for the authorities to cause trouble," he said.

The permit allows militants to stage demonstrations at the Ever-Commonwealth area.

Asked if they would try to get nearer the Batasang Pambansa, where the President will deliver her Sona, Reyes said: "What is important is we can march and hold programs. We will keep our word so what is stated in our permit is what we will do."

Encouraged by the talks, Querol told the INQUIRER that the police might scale down the force to be deployed in the capital on Monday.

10,000 cops

"I might scale it down (to) maybe about 10,000 (cops and soldiers), with 7,000 directly involved in traffic and security at the Batasan," he said.

Police initially planned to fortify the capital with 16,000 personnel men and women amid reports that communist rebels planned to sneak into Metro Manila to sow terror dur-



'HO-HUM.' Lawyer Flora Adriano of the Commission on Human Rights (left) lectures policemen on the rights of protesters in a seminar at Camp Karingal in Quezon City ahead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address tomorrow. The cops appear to have heard it all before.

JOAN BONDOD

ing the Sona rallies, and following the seizure of explosives and blueprints of Batasan from Magdalo rebel soldiers.

But Reyes said his group still feared the police would use the supposed New People's Army plot to crack down on demonstrators.

Bayan also feared the police would bar activists from the countryside from

joining the Sona rallies in Metro Manila, he said.

Querol, however, assured him that protesters from the provinces would be allowed to proceed to the capital, but there would be checkpoints to ensure no weapons could be sneaked through.

Querol also warned his men against bringing firearms to the rally.

Militant solons to boycott Sona

By Philip C. Tubeza

SIX PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES WILL BOYCOTT President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address tomorrow to protest the killing of leftist activists and the filing of rebellion charges against them.

Detained Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran will deliver instead an alternative Sona when he appears with the Batasan 5 before the Makati Regional Trial Court to answer the consolidated rebellion case against them.

"We will boycott Ms Arroyo's Sona because we believe she has lost all moral ascendancy to govern. Her lust for power has led her to destroy almost all institutions through massive electoral fraud, corruption, bribery, black propaganda, political persecution and terrorism," they said in a joint statement.

The Batasan 5 refers to the militant lawmakers—House Deputy Minority Leader Satur C. Ocampo, Bayan Muna Representatives Joel Virador and Teddy Casiño, Gabriela Rep. Liza L. Maza and Anakpawis Rep. Rafael V. Mariano—who camped out

at the House building for about three months to avoid arrest after being implicated in the attempted coup last February.

The group will also miss the opening of the third regular session of the 13th Congress tomorrow as they will also be in court.

Another legislator planning to boycott the Sona, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., said that Ms Arroyo's badly eroded credibility would make it difficult for the public to distinguish between the truth and lies in her Sona.

Pimentel said the President had acquired the reputation of a leader whose proclamations conflicted with her administration's actions, "as shown by the government's handling of graft and corruption, human rights violations, mass poverty, unemployment, the communist and Muslim insurgencies, and the peace process."

"The problem with the President is she has no more credibility. So whatever she says, the people will think she is lying and they will not believe her," he said in a statement.

"We have a President who says one thing and does another," he added.

Abat drew most cheers at Army turnover rites

By Dona Pazzibugan

FORMER ARMY CHIEF AND self-proclaimed "transition president" Fortunato Abat momentarily stole the limelight from the stars of the show during the Philippine Army turnover ceremonies at Fort Bonifacio yesterday.

Abat, who is also a former defense secretary, received the loudest cheers and the most applause from a surprised audience when his presence was announced by the outgoing Army chief and newly installed Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

"May I acknowledge the former Army commanding generals. May I ask you to rise, General Abat?" Esperon said as he acknowledged the presence of VIPs and special guests.

The 81-year-old Abat stood up and waved to the audience, many of whom apparently did not realize that the controversial general was in their midst.

When his turn came to speak, newly installed Army Chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino read through a long list of his former commanders and mentors and acknowledged former Army chiefs in the audience, but did not mention Abat.

In their speeches, Esperon and Tolentino vowed that under their watch the military would remain loyal to the chain of command.

If Abat felt alluded to, he did not give any sign of it. He did not

show up at the cocktails following the ceremonies.

Abat openly invited sedition charges when he proclaimed a revolutionary transition government and declared himself President on Dec. 13, 2005, as rumors of a coup d'etat raged.

He held forth for 35 hours at the Club Filipino in Greenhills before police arrested him and other members of his transition Cabinet. They have been charged with inciting to sedition but were not jailed.

In the months leading up to his action, Abat had been calling on the military and the police to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and "protect the sovereign right of the people."

Tolentino later told reporters he did not put meaning to Abat's presence at the Army turnover rites.

"It means he still loves the Army. He used to be our Army commander," said Tolentino, who is reported to have issued "shoot-to-kill" orders last January against anyone planning to recruit soldiers for destabilization efforts.

Tolentino said Abat was welcome to attend the turnover ceremonies as former Army commanding general though no special invitation was sent to him.

According to Army insiders, Abat attends Army turnover ceremonies though he missed the last one for Esperon in August 2005.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL WHO CARE FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES

WE, the administrators, faculty members, alumni and students of the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing, express our grave concern over the leakage in the recent Philippine Nursing Licensure Examination and the subsequent haste of the Professional Regulation Commission in releasing the results without consulting parties concerned.

This action raises more doubts not only on the integrity of our Licensure Examination but also on the quality of our country's nursing graduates. More specifically, this action tarnishes the image of all the nursing graduates who took the Licensure Examination this year.

We are fully aware that the Professional Regulation Commission, in its resolution dated July 12, invalidated the twenty-five questions in Test III (Medical Surgical Nursing) as well as all questions in Test V (Psychiatric Nursing). The said key subject-areas of the nursing curriculum: Medical Surgical Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing. These subjects are major areas of competencies of the profession!

Consequently, the said action of the Commission appears for the ignore Section 14 of Article VI of Republic Act 9173 quoted herewith:

Scope of Examination: "The scope of examination for the practice of nursing in the Philippines shall be determined by the Board. The Board shall take into consideration the objectives of the nursing curriculum, the broad areas of nursing, and other related disciplines and competencies in determining the subjects of examination"

Since their competencies in the aforementioned areas were not considered, examinees who have "passed" the June 2006 Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination have not necessarily proven their ability to provide safe and quality care to their future patients. Their competence is under a cloud of doubt. The Supreme Court of the Philippines ruled in DECS vs. San Diego, and echoed in a number of subsequent decisions that it is the duty of the State "to insure that the medical profession is not infiltrated by incompetents to whom patients may unwarily entrust their lives and health." Will the government allow the risking of patients' life and limb under the care of nurses with doubtful competence?

In addition, we have received information from our graduates that despite the pronouncement of the Professional Regulation Commission that Test V was invalidated, they were given a score in the said test. This action is a direct violation of Section 15, Article 2 of RA 9173:

Ratings. - In order to pass the examination, an examinee must obtain a general average of at least seventy-five percent (75%) with a rating of not below sixty percent (60%) in any subject. An examinee who obtains an average rating of seventy-five (75%) or higher but gets a rating below sixty percent (60%) in any subject, must take the examination again but only in the subject or subjects where he/she is rated below sixty percent (60%). In order to pass the succeeding examination, an examinee must obtain a rating of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in the subject or subjects repeated.

Moreover, in Test III, there is no absolute certainty whether only 25 questions were indeed leaked out. How did the investigating body come to the conclusion that these were the only items leaked out? Hence, to free it from allegation of arbitrariness it is incumbent upon the Professional Regulation Commission to explain to the public the basis of computation of grades of the examinees. Certainly, Truth and Justice demand that a more credible and reasonable explanation be given to all concerned sectors.

In view of the above observations, we CALL ON THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION TO SUSPEND THE SCHEDULED OATH TAKING WHILE THE RESULTS OF A FULL-SCALE AND INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION ARE STILL PENDING.

WE CALL ON THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF NURSING TO IMMEDIATELY RESOLVE THE ISSUES RAISED ABOVE.

We assured concerned parents and candidates for licensure that we do not wish to prolong your inconvenience and anxiety. We are all victims of a decision by the Professional Regulation Commission that clouds, rather than sheds light, on this disgraceful incident that happened in the recent June 2006 board examination. We seek to welcome you as new nurses in the profession in a process that is free from mockery and suspicion.

SUSAN N. MARAVILLA
Assistant Dean
College of Nursing, UST

THELMA ABELARDO
Treasurer
UST Nursing Alumni Association

RENE M. TADLE
President, Faculty Association of the
College of Nursing, UST

ALFREDO PANAWAN
PRO, Nursing Student Council
UST

WE ARE FOR CLEAR AND HONEST LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS!

Sona: High-tech show, parade of champs

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is putting bells and whistles on her State of the Nation Address tomorrow, aiming to tantalize the nation with a cutting-edge presentation and a parade of "Filipino champions for life" led by boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao.

"The Sona will be high-tech and will be supported by champions. It will not be just a simple speech by the President, it will be

interactive," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told a press briefing yesterday.

"The people can visualize and not just listen to what she will say," Defensor said.

Special guests

Aside from a presentation spruced up with the latest technological gizmos, the President's sixth Sona before the joint chambers of Congress will be "given life" by the appearance of Pacquiao, Miss Interna-

tional Precious Lara Quigaman, some of the gold medalists in the last Southeast Asian Games, and the Filipino conquerors of Mt. Everest.

The President's special guests were recently hailed as "Champions for Life," a kind of hall of fame for athletes, beauty queens and other achievers outside of the arts and sciences which the President created through Executive Order No. 540 issued last month.

Defensor defended the resort

to this kind of publicity stunt in the Sona, arguing that the "best manifestation of a growing economy is the achievements of our people."

"The Sona is about the vision and the pride of the Filipino people. The people's champions are our pride and we saw it fitting to present them in this year's Sona," Defensor said.

Pride of the state

Defensor said that superpowers like China routinely showcase

the pride of the state by producing world-class athletes and personalities.

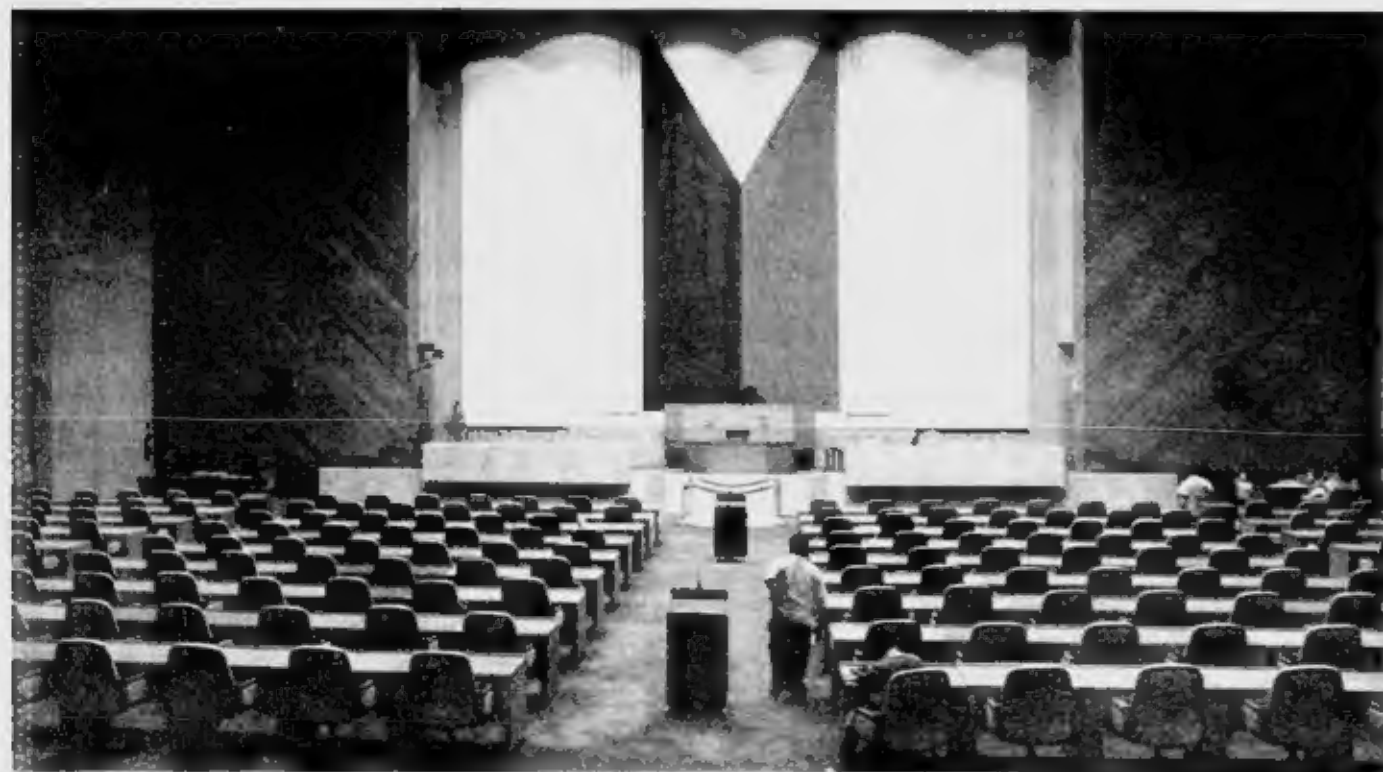
"We hope to do the same by showing off our world-class individuals. I don't see anything wrong in that," he said.

Debate over figures

Defensor said the President took a direct hand in her 2006 Sona, typing the draft of her speech on her laptop, with all Cabinet secretaries on call for any questions up to 5 a.m. yesterday.

A major debate among the President's advisers was whether she should pepper her speech with a lot of data to bolster her claims of economic prosperity.

"They said the figures do not mean anything but I said those figures should be stated. Even in the development of countries like Singapore, Malaysia and China, these are all the figures they used as a basis to assess the success or failure of an administration," said Defensor.



THE SIMPLE BUT GRAND plenary hall of the Batasang Pambansa gets all spruced up in the runup to the State of the Nation Address to be delivered by President Arroyo on Monday before a joint session of Congress.

JOHN BONDON

GMA is 'Superman' on economy, but not ...

From page A1

her dedication to her job, said Chua.

He cited the President's "killer schedule" that had forced her to be confined for two nights in the hospital due to work-related stress.

Jesus Arranza of the Federation of Philippine Industries said that comparing the business environment between the Estrada and Arroyo administrations was like night and day.

"Business is more upbeat now after she had made the economy the focal point of her Sona and her administration in the last five years," said Arranza.

Arranza admitted that while the President fell short in the political department, he did not consider this a failure for which she alone had to bear responsibility.

It takes two to tango

"It takes two to tango. If the other party does not want to make peace, all the President can do is try," said Arranza. "We all want the country to be one big happy family but you can't blame the President if we are not."

Ms Arroyo's economic adviser, Rep. Joey Salceda of Albay, gave his boss a 7.8 grade, especially for the tough fiscal reforms she pushed at the risk of further eroding her popularity.

International credit watchers, whose approval of the government's policies is crucial for its continued access to foreign creditors, have also taken notice of positive developments on the economic front.

Credit-rating agencies like Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Ratings have generally given the Arroyo administration a thumbs-up for its fiscal policies although years of broken promises have made them hesitant to endorse the country more enthusiastically.

Ms Arroyo's desire to narrow the ranks of the unemployed has made her administration undertake a slew of questionable policies—from changing the definition of unemployment, which resulted in the quarterly unemployment number dropping to single-digit levels, to hiring contractual street sweepers.

IT policy

Businessmen agree, however, that her policy favoring the development of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector is one of the more productive employment measures.

"We are on track toward having one million jobs in the ICT sector by 2010," said Mitch Locsin, executive director of Business Process Association of the Philippines.

BPAP brings together the country's largest call centers and business process outsourcing firms. It has aggressively pushed for more state support for the \$2.5 billion-a-year industry which presently employs about 125,000 Filipinos. (See photo on Page A16)

Language training

"The government has even begun to give more emphasis to English-language training after we lobbied for that last year," Locsin said.

Locsin noted that the call center industry had also benefited from Ms Arroyo's drive to decentralize economic activity.

"Already, we have four [call center] players in Dumaguete City, we have another two setting up in Iloilo, another two in Bacod, and

one in Tacloban," he said, on top of the call centers that are already operating in Cebu City and Davao City.

Discontent in Mindanao

As in past years, discontent runs highest in Mindanao where infrastructure spending and investment continues to lag from the rest of the country.

"Mindanao is developing only because of the Mindanaoans," said Gerald Vincent Garcia, a businessman based in General Santos City. "If you look at the infrastructure [spending] over the last five years, it's not right," he said, noting that it is disproportionate to Mindanao's role as the country's "food basket."

"They haven't even built the farm-to-market roads that they promised," he added.

He pointed to the proliferation of so-called "skylabs" or *habal-habal*—motorcycles with wooden planks that allow up to 10 riders to be accommodated—as evidence of the sorry state of Mindanao's transport infrastructure.

Not superwoman

One of the President's closest Cabinet allies before, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, strongly disagreed with the seemingly general consensus that the President was a superwoman in economics.

Soliman said that while the positive economic data—from interest rates to the foreign exchange rate to the stock market index—showed a rosy picture of the economy, there was hardly anything for the average Filipinos to cheer about.

Banks prefer to invest in treasury bills than lend to Juan de la Cruz. The strong peso means less purchasing power for recipients of remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Said a fishball vendor who calls himself Ariel, "Life was already difficult before. It has become more difficult now." Speaking in Tagalog, the vendor in Makati City did not think that consumer prices had stabilized as the government claimed.

He explained that half a kilo of large uncooked fishballs used to cost him P70. It now costs P80—an inflation rate of 14 percent, almost double that of official statistics. At the same time, slow sales have prevented him from raising prices, keeping the price of each fishball at P2.50 when it should already be P3 apiece, he said.

The tight margins have forced many of his peers out of business, he said, and into garbage-foraging.

Rickety cart, soiled shirt

Indeed, Ariel's rickety fishball cart and soiled shirt give no indication that the country's economic growth—with the gross domestic product growing at its fastest pace in a decade—has trickled down to the poorest of the poor.

"How can you say we are doing well when good macroeconomic figures do not translate to good microeconomic figures?" Soliman

Huge gap

Soliman believed that the President's failure to bring the benefits of her fiscal reform program in the past years down to the masses had been the reason for her undoing in the political arena.

"The Filipinos see a huge gap between what the President promises in her speeches (an economy on the verge of a takeoff) and

the reality in the everyday lives of common Filipinos (how to survive on less than the minimum wage)," Soliman said.

This perceived gap, which Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II dubbed the "economic disconnect," has led the public and her political foes, including ousted President Joseph Estrada's loyalists whom she has tried relentlessly to get to her side, to think twice before making a deal with her.

"I used to be close to her because I truly believed then that she was sincere and truly interested in helping the Filipinos. But I guess she does not have the ability to communicate her goals with sincerity to the public," Soliman said.

Patronage politics

Even the President's rallying call to overhaul the old system of patronage politics should not be taken at face value.

"It is in Charter change that she is at her most traditional as a politician," said Soliman, citing the transition plan in a new Constitution which would allow her to appoint 15 to 30 more representatives on top of the congressmen, senators and Cabinet officials that would comprise the unicameral body.

"This transitional body can perpetuate itself in power because it is the only one that can decide when elections will be held," said Soliman.

Interest blocs

"If you look at all her Sonas, all her accomplishments are impressive in the beginning but none of the promises have been fulfilled in their fullness. To make a promise, you are going to step on interest blocs and she is not willing to do that lest she rattle the established order."

Salceda concurred that it would take some time before the fruits of the fiscal reforms would be felt by ordinary Filipinos because of the gridlocks in the economy that is dominated by a few rich families.

Salceda said this was the reason the President had made it her goal to focus on spreading the wealth in the second half of her administration by increasing spending on infrastructure and social services in the national budget while laser-targeting subsidies in economic activities that have the most impact on the poor such as food, health care and housing.

Easier the next time around

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor expressed confidence that it would be easier for the President to achieve her political objectives the next five years compared to the first five years.

"In the first five years, the President had always acted like she was under siege. Her life, her term, her self-respect was always under threat. But now, after the opposition has thrown everything at her including the kitchen sink, the people slowly realizing the economic benefits from her reforms, and with a friendly ally leading the Senate, the President would be in a better position to gain the trust of the masses, reconcile with her political foes, and forge a peace pact with rebels," said Defensor.

More applause

So what does he expect from the President's Sona appearance on (Monday, July 24), "We expect more clapping from the audience, definitely much louder from last year."

Marines still restive...

From page A1

On Friday, a day after the decision was announced, Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon and Lt. Col. Armando Bañez quit their posts as deputy commandants for operations (MC-3) and for plans and programs (MC-5), respectively.

Two well-placed sources confirmed the resignations and said these were connected to the failed plot by elite troops from the Scout Rangers, the Marines and the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But while one source said Parcon and Bañez had resigned in protest of the upcoming court-martial, the other said the action was based on "delicadeza."

According to reports, the two men declared their resignations after a meeting among Marine officers at their Fort Bonifacio headquarters during the turnover ceremony for the new AFP chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, yesterday denied that Bañez and Parcon had quit in protest of Esperon's appointment.

"I talked with one of them because he is a close friend of mine, and he denied resigning because of Esperon," Defensor said without naming the officer.

Defensor said his friend wanted to give investigators leeway to look into the culpability of military men implicated in the purported Feb. 24 plot.

In black and white

Navy Flag Officer in Command Mateo Mayuga yesterday tried to sidestep the issue, saying he had not seen the actual resignation letters.

"There are reports, but ... if they are going to resign, it should be in black and white. As of now, there's none," he said.

But later Mayuga indicated that he was made aware of gripes among the Marines in conversations with the corps commandant, Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga.

"There are some gripes, but I've told him to put it in black and white," Mayuga said.

The Navy is the mother unit of the 8,000-strong Marine Corps which is famous for its code, "The Few, The Proud, The Marines."

The Marines would also not confirm the resignations.

But on Friday, Allaga said he had yet to receive from "higher headquarters" the order to relieve all 15 Marine officers implicated in the supposed plot.

The AFP inspector general, Rear Adm. Rufino Lopez, whose fact-finding board had recommended both the relief and court-martial of 25 Scout Ranger and 15 Marine officers for the purported plot said such officers who had broken their oath of loyalty to the chain of command had no place in the military.

"They will not be missed" "What is 40 officers against 17,000 [in the AFP officer corps]? They will not be missed," Lopez said yesterday.

On Thursday, Lopez said the relief order should "take effect immediately."

The Army had said all 25 Scout Ranger officers were relieved of their posts.

According to an INQUIRER source, Parcon was among a group of about 25 Marine officers who quit their posts early in March, but whose resignations were rejected by their superiors.

The source said the resignations came "in the aftermath" of the Feb. 26 standoff at the Marine headquarters where Col. Ariel Querubin protested the relief of the then Marine commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

Parcon and Querubin are recipients of the coveted Medal of Valor,

for their bravery in combat against extremist groups in Mindanao.

Bañez, on the other hand, supposedly became "demoralized" after Allaga named him acting Marine chief of staff on June 15, replacing Col. Orlando de Leon who had quit his post purportedly in disgust over the "politicized" AFP.

A source said Allaga assigned Bañez in an "acting capacity" because the position had been "promised" to another officer who was then on an education grant in Japan.

Bañez was also seen as "suspect" because of his closeness to Querubin, another source said.

1989 coup attempt

A 1982 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Bañez was among the young officers who joined the December 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration.

The bloody coup attempt was led by Querubin and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the sacked commander of the Scout Rangers, under the Young Officers Union banner.

Despite the death and destruction they had caused, all AFP rebel groups were granted amnesty in 1995, and the likes of Lim, Querubin and Bañez resumed their military careers.

Parcon, a member of PMA Class 1987, has been suspected of links with the Magdalo group of junior officers who mounted the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. But he was never charged.

Recommendations

The eight-member fact-finding board led by Rear Admiral Lopez has recommended that officers linked to previous coup plots not be given crucial command posts.

Gen. Generoso Senga approved all the recommendations made by the Lopez board just two days before he retired as AFP chief of staff on July 21.

Apart from the court-martial, the 40 Scout Ranger and Marine officers will also face summary dismissal proceedings before the Efficiency and Separation Board, along with 125 Scout Ranger enlisted personnel who had joined the purported coup plot.

Lim, Querubin and Miranda have been identified as included in the list.

The rest were not identified. But a leak of the draft Lopez report named Parcon and Bañez as among those recommended for court-martial.

Findings

According to the Lopez board's findings, Lim, Querubin and Miranda plotted to lead troops in a march to Edsa on Feb. 24 and withdraw support from the President in order to install a transition council.

The investigators said the Feb. 26 standoff prompted by Miranda's relief was part of the supposed plot. The standoff lasted for hours until Querubin was prevailed upon by Allaga and the majority of the senior officers to stand down.

Two days later, Querubin was relieved as commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Lanao del Sur.

Miranda remains "in the freezer."

Sendoff

But at the Navy anniversary on June 23, Mayuga told reporters that Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, supposedly one of those ordered for court-martial, had not been investigated over the purported plot.

Mayuga said then: "There was no standoff as far as the organization (AFP) is concerned."

He even led the sendoff of Segumalian, chief of the 2nd Marines Battalion that boarded a ship for Tawi-tawi. With reports from Re Zamora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



Churches offer prayers for Pinoys' safety

AS THE PHILIPPINES SCRAMBLES to rescue Filipino workers trapped in Lebanon, the Roman Catholic Church will be offering prayers for their safety today.

In the Manila Archdiocese, a special prayer for peace in the Holy Land as well as the entire Middle East, will be integrated in all Masses starting today.

The full text of the special prayers is as follows:

AMERICAN EVACUEES are helped to embark on the USS Trenton off northern Beirut to sail to Cyprus. Thousands of foreigners huddled in transit centers, weary but relieved as governments around the world ramped up a mass evacuation.

"We pray for peace in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land and Lebanon. May the governments at war with each other come to realize that nobody wins in war and that peace is the only way to genuine community of humankind."

"We pray for those who are suffering and grieving because of this conflict of powers in the Holy Land and Lebanon, that they may continue to hold on to the power

of love and peace rather than the destruction of hatred and vengeance."

Also, a special Mass for the OFWs in Lebanon and Israel is to be said at the Nuestra Señora de Guila (Ermita) Church at 5 p.m. today by the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants.

A candle lighting activity will be held after the Mass. *Jerome Aning*

Forces of Israel, Hezbollah, Lebanon

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF the military strengths of Israel, Lebanon and the Hezbollah, according to experts' estimates, notably the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the defense group Jane's:

ISRAEL: Troop strength: 168,000, made up of 125,000

army, 35,000 air force, 8,000 navy. Also 408,000 reservists.

Equipment: 3,630 tanks, 470 warplanes, 15 warships, 3 submarines, 200 nuclear warheads, Patriot missiles.

LEBANON: Troop strength: 72,100 including conscripts. However, most are more police

officers rather than soldiers. 1,100 in the air force, 1,000 in the navy.

Equipment: 310 tanks, mostly old Soviet T-54s and T-55s, and 24 helicopters.

HEZBOLLAH: Strength: 600 to 1,000 fighters, 3,000 to 5,000 available. 10,000 re-

servists

Equipment: 10,000 to 15,000 rockets.

Rockets include: Katyusha, with a range of 29 km; Fajr-3 (45 km), Fajr-5 (75 km), supplied by Iran.

Missiles: Perhaps around 30 supplied by Iran **AFP**

OFWs told: Pack up and go

From page A1

Cimatu said there were not too many Filipinos in the southern part of Lebanon as most of them were concentrated in Beirut.

Cimatu, tasked to oversee the evacuation plans, said the government was forced to order a full evacuation after Israeli air-planes "dropped leaflets in Southern Lebanon advising the people to get out of the area because they are coming."

"They are planning to use precision bombs to knock down vital installations," Cimatu said in a phone interview with Malacatang reporters.

"Their target is just one-third of Lebanon and is just 41 kms away from Beirut."

Alert level 4

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said a number of OFWs had gone to the Philippine Embassy in Beirut but only to register and let it know where to locate them if they had to be evacuated. Then, they returned to their employers.

The DFA raised the alert status to the maximum level 4 as Israeli forces threatened more destruction of targets in Lebanon after days of aerial bombardment.

"They should just pack up and go," Asuque stressed, referring to the OFWs in southern Lebanon covered by Alert Level 4.

Under level 4, "they have no more choice" but to rush to an evacuation site for eventual pick-up—either to the embassy itself or to the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish run by a Filipino priest, Asuque said.

While conditions seemed to have worsened for Filipinos trapped in Lebanon, problems hounded the first batch of 294 evacuees who had fled Beirut by bus to Damascus, Syria, and who were supposed to have arrived in Manila yesterday.

Flight delayed

The Emirates Airlines flight that was chartered to fly them to the Philippines at around 1 p.m. yesterday was "further delayed" because of technical problems in the aircraft, Asuque said.

Late last night, DFA officials said a new but smaller plane had been chartered from Airlink Inc. to ferry home the OFWs and that the plane was expected to arrive at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City today at noon.

The plane was carrying 229 OFWs and three infants, Asuque said.

As of early last night (Manila time), a new plane has been secured for the homebound OFWs but their flight schedule was still being cleared, he said.

"I have instructed the DFA to notch up our alert status to the highest level in the face of unrelenting violence and strife," Ms Arroyo said in a statement. "To the fullest extent that this government can deliver, we shall take every Filipino in Lebanon out of harm's way."

Banks, groceries open

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said he expected the alert level for the stranded

OFWs to be raised also to 4 in the rest of Lebanon in the coming days.

Cimatu, who was in Beirut, said life appeared normal in the capital city which was why the alert level remained at 3.

"The banks and groceries are still open and traffic is still heavy here," Cimatu said.

Cimatu estimated that 90 to 95 percent of the 30,000 Filipinos in Lebanon are in Beirut with the remaining five percent scattered in other areas.

Cimatu said the number of registered evacuees stood at 500 and that the government was processing their papers for their return to Manila.

Temporary relocation

But Cimatu said the government was already preparing for the evacuation of all Filipinos from central and northern Lebanon soon, especially if the Israeli army marched deeper into Lebanon.

"This is the reason why I am planning for a temporary relocation site in the northernmost part of Lebanon at the border of Syria so that it would be easier to get them when necessary," Cimatu said.

Cimatu said the worst-case scenario was to airlift all Filipinos out of Lebanon and bring them all back to

Manila.

"We have no problem with the funding, our problem is in logistics. It's really difficult to get planes here from one destination to another," he said.

In her statement, the President said the government had a plan that considered all scenarios and options in the areas of on-site relief, evacuation and coordinated operations with other countries.

GMA's hotline

"I have a hotline with our crisis managers on the ground," she said, referring to Cimatu's team. "The government will bring all resources available to bear upon the situation as we sharpen our action blueprint to include all possible safe sanctuaries, routes of egress and means of transport."

Under the alert level 3 existing in other areas in Lebanon, Filipinos are instructed to relocate to a pre-designated safe haven in their locality.

Asuque could not immediately provide details when asked whether OFWs in Sidon had evacuation centers where they could immediately run to.

But this much Asuque could say: "Whatever the distance between Sidon and Beirut, the embassy has to

pluck them out of there."

Advice to those trapped

Foreign undersecretary Esteban Conejos said OFWs coming from southern Lebanon should try to make it to Beirut where the Philippine evacuation center is.

He said they could make their trip safer by going with their employers who were also fleeing, or by contacting the embassy or the designated OFW "coordinator" in their area as to where they could be picked up.

Precision bombing

Vice President Noli de Castro, speaking on his weekly radio program, said that the OFWs who were mostly coming from the resort towns of Tyre and Sidon in southern Lebanon, had been instructed to board embassy-hired buses and proceed to the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church in Beirut and await evacuation to Damascus, Syria.

He said that in parts of Lebanon where alert level 3 was in place, the danger was not imminent because of "specific precision bombings," meaning only the target areas were being hit. With reports from Cynthia D. Bakana and AFP

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ISSN
0716-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 225

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • Chino Roces Ave. corner Yagor and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
 • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1261 Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-4793 / 897-4794 / Advertising 897-4807
 • Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 / 897-4795 / 897-4796 / 897-4797
 • Circulation 827-3342 / 827-3348 / 828-6181 / 828-6186 and 828-6213 / Fax: 828-02-34
 • Subscription Hotline 896-6888



Behaving badly

THE TURNAROUND OF MAGDALO MUTINEER Lt. Lawrence San Juan came with the usual prop in our still essentially black-and-white culture: an affidavit, which narrates in black and white one junior officer's slow immersion in the gray areas of our military's checkered history.

Let us set aside the question of whether San Juan's affidavit is authentic; that is, whether it accurately reflects the experience he purports to describe. That can wait for another time; but taking our cue from that branch of philosophy known as phenomenology, let us consider San Juan's written testimony as though it were true—to discover what experience and close reading can teach us.

Immediately, we realize that the narrative we are reading is all-too-familiar. This is not the first time we've heard this kind of conversion story, as it were, of promising officers drawn into adventurism. The rituals San Juan describes are familiar too.

We also quickly realize that San Juan's narration of events jibes with what many sources have already said, on and off the record. His identification of key personalities, for example, is something that sources in the military have been telling journalists since 2003.

Not least, we also realize, or are forcefully reminded of, an important fact lost in the turbulent wake of the Garci scandal and President Macapagal-Arroyo's resulting crisis of legitimacy. The first attempt to launch a military takeover and replace the unpopular, controversial Arroyo administration took place even before the May 2004 elections. Those who speak of alleged election fraud as though it were the administration's original sin play into the hands of those who wish to justify military intervention—regardless of the justification.

Two and a half years after the Magdalo mutiny, a group of Marines, Scout Rangers, and police officers from the Special Action Force launched another attempt to intervene in the country's politics.

The Lopez report, which investigated the series of events last February, provides a candid and revealing look at the planned "withdrawal of support," and the role played by former coup plotters like Scout Ranger Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin.

In the sometimes stilted language common to military documents, the report concludes that the "congruence of the event among the Philippine Marines and the Philippine Army Rangers reveals that it was not borne [sic] out of spontaneity but a deliberate and planned action." It also names Lim and Querubin as "the principal perpetrators of the foiled destabilization action." Not least, it picks up the theme first sounded by the Magdalo mutineers in 2003, and repeated in San Juan's affidavit last week: that the plotters were driven by legitimate grievances to try and "eventually install a new administration."

But those grievances (now of a higher magnitude, because of the allegations of election fraud) were mere rationalizations for officers who were already disposed to intervene. In the report's own words: "The grievances raised were merely utilized as a vehicle to conceal the real intent if not to arouse passion and fuel the emotions in adopting insubordinate, seditious and disloyal attitude."

We want to be clear: The politicization of the military is not the fault alone of those in the opposition who seek like-minded officers of the Armed Forces. The administration itself bears a disproportionate share of the blame; indeed, the appointment of the so-called Garci generals—those who were named in the Garcillano wire-taps—to the highest positions in the AFP beginning with Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon, cannot but be viewed as politically motivated.

That is one fact on the ground, as hard-nosed generals like to say, that the Lopez report fails to recognize or at least put on the record. But there is no arguing with what seems to us is the most poignant recommendation (repeated a few times) in the entire report: that "officers involved in past coup attempts/destabilization be banned from command of units especially elite or special units."

In fact, what both the San Juan affidavit and the Lopez report tell us is straight out of Psychology 101: behavior is reinforcement. If coup plotters are not punished as they deserve to be, they will continue to plot.

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Bribing the bishops

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



THE SCANDAL RECENTLY EXPOSED WOULD have been disdainfully dismissed as an incredible invention were it not for the undeniable fact that it had been orchestrated by rascals from Malacañang who have already forfeited the people's confidence. Their known deceptions and prevarications have long since become public knowledge and lent credence to the serious charges the bishops had leveled against them.

Their accusers are not ordinary enemies with selfish political or personal motives and also suspicious records of unreliable honesty. The denunciation came from men of the cloth, superior officials from the Catholic Church who are looked up to by their parishioners as their religious teachers and the moral leaders of the community. There may be some guilty exceptions among them but, on the whole, the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines are respected for their spirituality and rectitude.

The charges were so incredibly fantastic as to be instantly described as a children's fairy tale but of the gory kind. The details were simply unbelievable. According to the bishops who had spoken up in indignation, President Macapagal-Arroyo's flunkies had brazenly attempted to bribe them in contempt of their known integrity.

At the recent CBCP meeting, messengers from the Palace, who should not have been there in the first place, unobtrusively slipped into their pockets envelopes containing thousands of pesos with the whispered information about their source to whom—although this was not directly suggested—they should be grateful. They were also served unordered trays of food and given expensive individual vestments, gratis et amore. And this was not the only time.

On a separate occasion, three bishops were

offered checks from the Pagcor, two for P500,000 each and the third for P300,000. Administration officials had in previous years sent bishops Christmas presents and "financial assistance." There was also the "victory banquet" where they had been feted, obviously in appreciation for their refusal to support the new impeachment complaints against Ms. Arroyo.

All their "gifts" were rejected by the donees, who felt insulted by the supposed generosity that dishonored their flock.

Many bishops had expressed dissatisfaction with President Arroyo and at least one of them had directly joined the pro-impeachers to remove her from her allegedly stolen office. Her advisers may have thought it a wise strategy to at least neutralize the rest of his colleagues if not actually enlist them against her growing list of adversaries.

To give the secret envelopes some respectability, it was claimed to have been intended for the donees' parishes and not personally for the bishops. If so, the bishops asked, why were the "gifts" extended secretly to them instead of directly and openly to the parishioners themselves? Or better still, why were they not offered formally to the CBCP as a body, for it to accept or reject in its discretion? Instead, the largesse was surreptitiously distributed like the loot from a pirate plunder or a bank heist.

If it was true that the reason for the "gifts"

was to alleviate the hardships of the poor under the social justice policy, then the bounty must have been officially drawn from the public treasury. From what discretionary fund were they taken and were there lawful vouchers for their withdrawal for verification by the auditors? Assuming some of the envelopes were unscrupulously accepted by some rascals from the pulpit, did they issue the corresponding receipts as acknowledgment of their *nequa culpa*?

But the less naïve of Ms. Arroyo's apologists would have no truck with admitting the truth of the bishops' charges. They are, to these absolute loyalists, complete lies. They insist that not a single centavo was offered or given to any bishop despite, among others, the concrete evidence of the checks from the Pagcor that were rejected by the payees. Even the number of those checks was reported by the Inquirer in its issue of July 13, 2006.

Ms. Gloria's allies are saying that the scandal is a "smear campaign" of the opposition and "the Devil's handiwork," with which they must be familiar. As the most unpopular President in our history, she is nevertheless, to them, more innocent than the untruthful bishops who have maligned her. An unlikely Pollyanna!

Under the Bill of Rights, the innocence of the accused must be presumed until the contrary is proved. If this were a criminal case, I would say that the bishops have overcome that presumption and the burden of proof has shifted to the defense. Mere denial will not suffice to win it an acquittal, and neither will its irrelevant and immaterial name-calling.

The scales of justice have turned, and the verdict must lean now in favor of the bishops. If this matter is elevated to the Supreme Court, let us hope it will not cop-out as usual and instead decide it justly and boldly. In any event, it is the sovereign people, whatever their faith or none of it, who will tender the final judgment.

Leader or dealer?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



leader is one who serves and protects. A leader who is just being protected and who is just being served has ceased to be a true leader.

Jesus was a leader, not a dealer. Jesus did not treat people as mere commodities that could be bought or sold. In very clear terms, He gave the message that He Himself could not be bought. Sad, very sad, that for many of our leaders today, money is the bottom line that's all, and that's it.

It is interesting to note that even our bishops are not being spared by dealers of dirty money. Even in their recent spiritual retreat, they were "graced" with the presence of envelope- and gift-giving people, "wolves in sheep's clothing" whose only purpose was to divide or discredit them. Guess what? They have to some extent succeeded to do just that. But know what? The success of these wolves is only temporary. Slowly but surely, our people especially our bishops, are beginning to realize the magnitude, the depth and the height of the moral decay pervading our society today—a society that is run by heartless dealers, not leaders.

When good people are persecuted and punished while evildoers are being promoted and rewarded, then something is terribly wrong. When evil does not only seem to prosper but does prosper in a society, then we can conclude that it is no longer leadership, but dealership that is operative.

"How much?" Ouch! This has become the bottom-line question nowadays. "Name your price" has become the final statement nowadays. In short, "Deal, or No Deal"? See where money has led and is leading us? If we are not vigilant, time will come when the all-powerful money will be the determining factor in our government, in our families, in our relationships, in our religion and even in our very hearts.

Jesus invites all of us today to go to a deserted place and rest awhile. How important it is to take time (make time!) to rest, reflect and recharge. Only in silence, reflection and prayer can we really see who we really are and where we are going. Only when we really listen to God (and not just talk to Him), can we see what we need to change in our lives. Prayer really works. But how come some prayerful people continue to be corrupt and evil? Maybe, they do not really listen to God in prayer. Surely, it is because they do not obey what God tells them in their prayer.

This is a long shot but I'm taking it anyway. It's an appeal to the conscience of the man who bumped Jovita Olores with his dirt bike at about 7:10 p.m. last June 19, Monday in the vicinity of Clark International Airport. According to Chito, husband of Jovit, the motorcycle had no lights. But what made the whole accident so painful was that the motorcycle rider, after flagging down a jeepney, sped off, never to be seen again. For your information, Jovit passed away last June 22, at the age of 56. Please, sir, have a conscience, have a heart. And don't forget, God knows you. God sees you. Please reach out.

A moment with the Lord:
 Lord, give us good leaders, not dealers in our land. Amen.

Change of command

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



LAST FRIDAY SAW THE INSTALLATION OF THE ninth AFP chief of staff during the incumbency of President Macapagal-Arroyo. After serving on the job for 11 months—possibly the most tumultuous 11 months in his distinguished military career—Gen. Generoso Senga turned over the saber of command to his successor, former Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. Esperon himself will be retiring in February 2008 giving him a bit more time on the job than many of his predecessors.

Somehow, I am reminded that last April, Defense Secretary Arvelino Cruz spoke about proposals to change the retirement system in the AFP. His recommendations called for compulsory retirement of military officers after 30 years of service unless one was promoted to brigadier general or commodore, whereupon the officer would be allowed five more years of service. If promoted to major general or rear admiral, he would have another four years. A further advance to lieutenant general or vice admiral would give him an additional three years; and if he was appointed AFP chief of staff, the officer would serve for a fixed term of three years.

More than a year ago, the Senate approved Senate Bill 1862. Sponsored by Sen. Rodolfo Banzon, it provides for a fixed term of three years for the AFP chief. But the issue has been sleeping in the House of Representatives, and so we continue to call attention to this revolving door policy involving the Armed Forces leadership. There appears to be no serious move to change the existing situation despite pronouncements to the contrary by the administration.

After a long introductory period of acknowledging the presence of family and relatives, as well as supporters representing various organizations and provinces, the new chief of staff drew a round of applause when he announced the breakup of the Southern Command (Southcom) into two separate unified commands—one for Eastern Mindanao to tackle the CPP-NPA threat with headquarters in

Davao City, and another for the western portion of the island with headquarters in Zamboanga City. Considering the size of Mindanao and the dual threats posed by communist and Moro insurgencies, this move has been long overdue.

However, let us hope that the creation of these commands will not result in more star ranks for the Armed Forces. I realize this view will not sit well with some officers in the organization, but we just have too many generals in relation to the existing troop strength. Every additional star position activated will have to be supported by personnel and equipment, diverting resources that could better be utilized by the soldiers in the field. Perhaps, we could downgrade one of the existing unified commands in order to serve the needs of the proposed reorganization in Mindanao. It is time to rationalize this issue and Defense Secretary Cruz may wish to include it among his Defense Reform initiatives.

In his maiden speech as the new chief of staff, General Esperon also stressed his concerns for the welfare of the man in uniform, citing the various housing programs which he vowed to pursue during his term of office.

It has been reported by well-meaning friends in media and even by the President, that General Esperon is the first Presidential security chief to reach the exalted position of AFP chief of staff. At low me to correct this error in our appreciation of past history. Whatever may be our views about Gen. Fabian Ver, the record is clear. He was the first presidential security chief to become AFP

chief of staff, succeeding Gen. Romeo Espino on June 15, 1981. Espino served in the position for nine years and six months—the longest tour of duty of any AFP chief of staff. Both Ver and Espino were UP ROTC graduates and during their stint, many service commanders were products of the ROTC program.

At the time of the proclamation of martial law, when Espino was chief of staff, the Army was led by Maj. Gen. Rafael Zagala, also a UP ROTC graduate; the Philippine Navy was headed by Rear Adm. Hilario Ruiz, a Naval ROTC graduate of the Philippine Naval School, while the Air Force chief was Maj. Gen. Jose Rancudo from the PAF Flying School. The Constabulary was headed by Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos, a West Point graduate. When General Ver was AFP chief of staff, the Army had Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramos, the Navy Rear Adm. Simeon Alejandro, and the Air Force, Maj. Gen. Vicente Piccio—all non-PMA graduates. The Constabulary remained under Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos.

After the Edsa Revolution, all the AFP chiefs of staff, with the exception of Gen. Fidel Ramos, came from the Philippine Military Academy and so were most of the service commanders under them. With the abolition of the ROTC program, this trend is likely to continue, except perhaps in the Philippine Air Force which can tap other sources for its commissioned officers.

Yesterday, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino assumed command of the Philippine Army vice General Esperon. Both officers belong to PMA Class '74, while the Air Force and the Navy are headed by Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes and Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, respectively, both members of PMA Class '73.

Personal notes: The Calderon brothers, Oscar and Leonardo Jr., PNP and Isap chiefs, respectively, are the sons of Col. Leonardo Calderon who served in the Air Dental Office when I was CG, PAF. Leonardo Jr. is married to Teresita Ver, daughter of my boss at the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok, the late Col. Jesus Ver.

No decaf, please

I RENT OFFICE SPACE AT P85 A DAY I SHOW UP AT around nine in the morning, call out a cheery good morning to the people at the counter, pick up my cup of coffee and clatter up the stairs to my little nook. Then it's plop-down on the chair—high heels are dropped to the floor; feet are tucked in and there is the minute-long scrabbling for scruffy notebook and brand new pen.

I don't go there every day—twice a week, sometimes thrice, depending on whether both my wallet and my stomach can take it. I share my office with dozens of others who occupy tiny round tables. Beside me, there's a couple drumming away on laptops. Judging from the amount of paperwork piled between them, I'm assuming they're preparing a presentation to the United Nations on the merits of using intercontinental ballistic missiles for transporting aid to Third World countries. Behind me is a group of bohemian-types, sporting bandanas, goatees and colorful skirts, alternately clapping each other in the back, spouting poetry and insulting other would-be poets who, I presume, are not in the room. Away in the corner is a young man bundled into a jacket and two sweaters, mumbling to himself from a thick tome, while dragging a pale hand through his curly hair.

I stay anywhere between 5 and 12 hours, leaving a few minutes before the barista locks down and calls it a day. I'm told J.K. Rowling pounded out Harry Potter on an old typewriter while sitting in her version of my office. If The Great Filipino Novel somehow surfaces in the pockets of time between pounding out a column, writing scripts and babbling to friends who drop by, then the P85 for a short hot latte (skim milk please) will be well worth it.

The Age of Enlightenment descended into the world with the arrival of the coffee cup. Essentially, coffee sets the blood in motion, stimulates the muscles and chases away sleep. Diderot, Voltaire and Rousseau frequently parked their exhausted behinds on the wrought iron chairs of Paris' Café Le Procope. The 17th-century coffeehouse in England was the home of merchant and lord, artist and intellectual—it was anyone's turf, a cup of coffee costing a grand total of one penny. The coffeehouses were dubbed "penny universities"—where a man could "pick up more useful knowledge than by applying himself to his books for a whole month."

As with everything, from the Da Vinci Code to condoms, the popularity of the coffeehouse can be judged by the furor against it. In 1674, a group of women launched a campaign against that most evil of opiates, coffee—"Coffee leads men to trifle away their time, scald their chops, and spend the money, all for a little base, black, thick, nasty, bitter, stinking nauseous puddle water."

It is "the excessive use of that newfangled, abominable, heathenish liquor called coffee" that has "eunuched" their husbands and crippled their gallants, so that the men became "as impotent, as age, and as unfruitful as those deserts whence that unhappy [coffee] berry is said to be brought."

Women, it seemed, weren't going to take things lying down. They preferred to be on top. Of things, that is.

In 1600, Italian priests launched a campaign to forbid coffee, calling it an infidel drink. Frederick The Great condemned coffee as "disgusting," and employed coffee sniffers to sniff and stalk through the streets of Prussia for the illicit aroma of roasting coffee beans.

Coffee, as a Turkish proverb claims, "should be black as hell, strong as death, and as sweet as love." One of my friends claims otherwise, as coffee, he says is "as bitter as love." Whether this is a reflection of his preference for black coffee or a reflection of his love-life is something I'd rather not ask.

Behind every successful woman, I am told, is a substantial amount of coffee. I'm assuming that's why I still haven't managed to win the Pulitzer Prize, as my cup-a-day is nowhere near the world average. But I have found there is no better place in the world to sit and write—there's the energy rampaging in the air, the babble of voices and the distance away from the twin threats of my couch and bed.

In his essay, Honore de Balzac claims that once strong coffee falls into the stomach, "ideas quick-march into motion, memories charge in, the cavalry of metaphor deploys with a magnificent gallop, the artillery of logic rushes up with clattering wagons and cartridges on imagination's orders, sharpshooters sight and fire; forms and shapes and characters rear up, the paper is spread with ink." As coffee is the reason why my computer screen is currently filling with words, I tend to think the same.

In modern Egypt, Turkey and Syria, coffeehouses are gathering places for chess players and TV fanatics. In the United States, they are the necessary pit stop in the race between subway and office. In Paris, cafés double as both bar and bistro, while the Internet café is quickly gaining ground. In Amsterdam, a coffeehouse is the neighborhood drugstore for legalized marijuana.

In the Philippines, the coffeehouse has replaced the movie theater, the mall and Luneta as the place for a guy to go for that first oh-so-casual squeeze of a girl's hand—and where girlfriend spots boyfriend in a not-so-casual clinch with That Girl. Black leather couches, where millions are made, lost and regained, have replaced the boardroom table.

No longer are parked cars and quieter back alleys the places for brewing intrigue. I suspect that if the government wishes to sniff out information, they better wiretap Starbucks instead of cellular phones. But as with the 17th century, where the coffeehouse was the only place where "you have the right to read all the papers for and against the government," so must eavesdroppers be wary.

I can see it now, men in dark suits standing discreetly at the corners of C3 and Starbucks, waiting for the go-signal to leap for the unsuspecting man with the ice-blended mocha. And then the eventuality: chaos—caffeine-high artists ramming guitars at policemen, side by side with the indignant businessman tossing steaming espressos, and the young student throwing down law school books.

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THEY SAID

Others first

"I want to share with everybody that in times of crisis, some people can be so selfless they would think of you first. And I should also be willing to do that for others."

—Maria Theresa Neco-Ortega, survivor of the 1990 earthquake that buried her with friends and guests at the Hyatt Terraces Hotel in Baguio City

Assault on Biak na Bato

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



IT TOOK JUST 30 MINUTES FOR MOUNT Everest "veterans" Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata, together with other members of the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition Team, to scale Mount Mananang inside the Biak na Bato National Park in Bulacan.

But the goal of last month's climb wasn't really to help them prepare for the team's assault on Everest next year. Instead, another sort of "assault" was on their minds, the assault on Biak na Bato being carried out by mining companies who are destroying not just the mountains but the surrounding environment with their marble quarrying activities.

Some 200 mountaineers, environmentalists, civic leaders, students, local police and media representatives joined the expedition team in the climb, seeing for themselves the extent of the damage wrought on the park.

In many ways, it's already too late. "We can never return Biak na Bato to exactly the way it was," laments a local environmental group leader. "Damage control na lang," admits Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz. Entire mountainsides have been gouged out to get to the pink marble that lies beneath the mountain's face, marble so rare that it fetches premium prices abroad, especially in China where the dark pink marble is considered "lucky."

Indeed, even Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes has been so moved by the "beauty" of Bulacan's "tea rose" marble that he told the media he felt the "export potential" of the marble could be more fully explored, he advocated exporting finished marble products instead of just blocks of the rare stone.

And there, I think, lies the problem. While the Bulacan provincial government has stood firmly on its "No More Mining" policy in Biak na Bato, the DENR, which has authority over matters in the national park, seems to be dragging its feet. Indeed, it has even sought to turn the tables on Governor De la Cruz, claiming that the real reason she wants Rosemoor, the biggest operator, out of Biak na Bato is that she would rather allow small-scale miners to take over.

AFTER THE drowning of eight children inside

Biak na Bato in 2004, a tragedy the governor says opened her eyes to the fatal consequences of the environmental destruction in the park, the Bulacan provincial government sought to work with the DENR to put a stop to the mining going on there.

Instead of enforcing the "No More Mining" policy, however, the regional office of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, headed by OIC Angel Bravo, issued Rosemoor an Ore Transport Permit (OTP), an action it would repeat two more times. Last February, Governor De la Cruz wrote a formal complaint to then newly appointed Environment Secretary Reyes, citing the province's efforts to curb Rosemoor's mining operations and the continued abetting of its activities by Bravo and the DENR regional office. A month later, Bravo again extended Rosemoor's OTP for another month.

Following a multi-sectoral assembly attended by both Reyes and De la Cruz, where the main demand of the assembly was for the DENR to cancel the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) it had with Rosemoor, the DENR head announced that he had ordered the cancellation of a OTPs within Biak na Bato.

Last July 12, Reyes suspended the operations of Rosemoor. However, he did not cancel the MPSA, saying there is "no valid ground" for doing so. At the same time, he "cancelled" the permits of the small-scale mining groups, even if the provincial government says these permits had all expired anyway and have not been renewed.

Faced with the DENR's continued inaction, the governor had a billboard put up in front of the provincial capital, marking a "countdown" on the number of days that had passed since

Secretary Reyes vowed before Bulacan residents that he would put a stop to the mining in Biak na Bato.

Meantime, concerned citizens living near Biak na Bato have reported that they still hear blasting going on within the park.

IMAGINE what could have happened if, 10 years ago—when environmental groups first sought to call public attention to what was going on in Biak na Bato—government authorities had acted with dispatch and put a stop to all forms of mining within the park.

Imagine if the governor and the rest of the provincial government, as well as the local government executives of the two towns with jurisdiction over Biak na Bato, overcame their political concerns (the mining firms employed thousands of locals) and took a long-term view of the situation.

Perhaps, if authorities had acted at the time, the damage done to the mountains, the caves, the forest cover, the underground water supply would still have been reversible and Biak na Bato would still have time to heal itself. Today, however, despite the good intentions of groups like the Everest Summiteers or even of the provincial government or the DENR, there is a possibility that some of the damage may now be beyond repair. Certainly, we can no longer restore the mountainsides that were destroyed for marble slabs that now lie in the lobby floors and walls of plush hotels in China and elsewhere.

Governor De la Cruz admits that environmental concerns weren't very high in her priorities in her first two terms, and that she felt she could very well stay out of the Biak na Bato issue because it was the concern of the DENR. "I have apologized publicly for being a latecomer on this issue," she says.

"But one thing you can say about me is that once I decide to wade into an issue, I don't let go," adds this youthful governor. She now talks of working with civic organizations to restore the charms of Biak na Bato and turn it into a major eco-tourism destination. But first, the blasting will have to stop, and the mountains must be spared from further damage.

cutors walked out to protest a vote won by pro-Estrada senators. The walk-out triggered mass demonstrations that came to a head when the top leaders of the military announced they too were withdrawing their support for the president. This quick succession of events forced Estrada to leave Malacañang. The Supreme Court justices promptly swore in Vice President Arroyo as president, and later affirmed the validity of her succession to the presidency. They argued that, by his actions, Estrada had "constructively resigned."

The sudden appearance of the military commanders, led by the chief of staff, at the Edsa Shrine in 2001 to announce their withdrawal of support was the turning point. It will likely haunt Philippine politics for a long time. Yet, I believe that, for all its constitutional ambiguity, there was general public acceptance at that time of Ms. Arroyo's accession to the presidency.

Ms. Arroyo's legitimacy crisis today stems directly from the widespread suspicion, spawned by the "Hello Garci" tapes, that she personally conspired with election officials to rig the 2004 presidential election. Her failure to give a prompt and credible response to the controversy, the evasiveness with which she replied to questions about the wiretapped conversations, and various attempts to cover up the deed, so eroded her credibility that many people are now inclined to review the events that led her to the presidency in 2001. Was Edsa II spontaneous, or was it a product of a well-executed elite conspiracy?

This is the situation we are in today. Unable to feign, buy, or cajole legitimacy, Ms. Arroyo has instrumentalized every state institution to ensure her political survival. In so doing, she has unwittingly exposed the violent foundations of our unjust social order, and encouraged a radical resolution of the nation's crisis. Like Marcos, Ms. Arroyo is fast becoming the communist insurgency's biggest recruiter.

Comments to public: lives@gmail.com

AT THE HEART OF THE NATION'S CURRENT crisis is the failure of its political system to put to rest persistent doubts about the right of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to continue exercising the powers of the presidency. The principal cause of this failure is the system's inability to protect its institutions against abuse by a reckless politician desperate to keep herself in power.

Political legitimacy is the principle underpinning every social order that draws its vitality from consensus rather than coercion. Legitimacy results from the free acceptance by citizens of their leaders, and their willingness to be bound by decisions made in their name. The absence of legitimacy produces a restless and rebellious public. Left unresolved, a legitimacy crisis can erode an entire political system, and engulf a whole social order.

In modern democracies, legitimacy is not a mandate that comes from outside society. It is rather created by society's internal processes, in particular by its political system. This system proposes visions of progress and offers the leaders who are supposed to embody such visions. The public makes its choices known through elections. The preservation of the sanctity of the ballot lies at the core of this process. But legitimacy is more than just winning elections or conforming to procedures. It ultimately rests on what an articulate public is willing to accept.

In 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos mounted a coup against his own government by declaring martial law. He jailed dissenting journalists and opposition leaders after accusing them of participating in what he called a "rightist-leftist conspiracy." Young activists went underground to oppose martial rule, but the acquiescence of the Supreme Court, and indeed of the general public, led Marcos to think that what he was doing was right. It took 14 years before the nation would realize it had been deceived.

In the snap election called by Marcos in 1986, a public that had recovered its capacity for outrage

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



In the wake of Ninoy Aquino's assassination rejected the official results put out by the Barasag Pambansa proclaiming the re-election of Marcos. A people power revolt sparked by a failed military coup ousted Marcos and installed Cory Aquino as president. Filipinos—and the rest of the world—enthusiastically welcomed Ms. Aquino, who forthwith abolished the rubber-stamp legislature, re-constituted the Supreme Court—another damaged institution, and replaced the 1973 Marcos Constitution with one written by her own appointed Constitutional Commission. The public accepted the legitimacy of these actions even if they were made by someone who, strictly speaking, had not been duly elected president.

In 2001, the second time people power was used to oust a sitting president, the circumstances were somewhat more contentious. The incumbent president, Joseph Estrada, had a clear mandate from his landslide victory in the 1998 election. While there were lingering doubts about his fitness for the position, the nation accepted his assumption of the presidency. On his second year in office, however, initial public anxiety over his erratic work habits and decision-making style erupted in full-blown protests against the criminal company he kept and the corruption that seemed to mark every decision he made.

But Estrada was not a dictator like Marcos; extra-constitutional means to oust him seemed out of place. Accordingly, impeachment charges were filed against him. But while the Senate was hearing the charges, the proceedings took a different turn. At a crucial stage in the hearings, the pro-

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TALK of the TOWN

AT WAR WITH ISRAEL

Hezbollah and Hamas guerrillas

ISRAEL IS FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS—IN GAZA AGAINST HAMAS AND IN LEBANON against Hezbollah. The crisis began in Gaza when Hamas guerrillas attacked an Israeli army border post on June 25 and abducted an Israeli soldier.

Israel's response was swift and brutal. It bombed power stations, buildings and seized at least 60 Hamas officials in an attempt to secure the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit. He is still in the hands of Hamas.

The second front opened on July 12 when Hezbollah guerrillas crossed into northern Israel, killed eight Israeli soldiers and took two others as hostages.

The response of the Israel Defense Forces was massive. The IDF blew up Beirut's international airport, highways, bridges, buildings and power plants, and blockaded ports. Its artillery pounded southern Lebanon. More than 300 people have been killed in the attacks, mostly civilians.

Hamas and Hezbollah are fighting back with rockets. Hundreds of Hezbollah missiles and rockets have rained down on settlements in northern Israel, including the port city of Haifa, killing a number of people. Hezbollah has disabled an Israeli warship off the coast of Lebanon using a cruise missile.

The war has displaced half a million people in Lebanon, including tens of thousands of foreign nationals. There are some 34,000 Filipino workers in Lebanon, mostly domestics who have yet to be evacuated.

The conflict is tied to Iran and Syria, which both support Hamas and Hezbollah. It is reported that the Hezbollah attack on Israeli forces came a day after fruitless talks in Brussels between Iran and representatives of the European Union, Britain, France, Germany and Russia over the proposal to stop Iran's nuclear enrichment program in exchange for incentives.

Party of God

FOLLOWING THE ISRAELI invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Hezbollah (meaning, "Party of God") was formed by a group of Muslim clerics to resist Israeli forces.

The Lebanese Muslim Shia group, which takes its ideological inspiration from the Iranian revolution and the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, is dedicated to "liberating Jerusalem and eliminating Israel."

It advocates the establishment of Islamic rule in Lebanon, the creation of an Iranian-style Islamic republic and the removal of all non-Islamic influences from the area.

The ideological ideas of Hezbollah "sees no legitimacy for the existence of Israel."



It is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States because of a series of bombings, kidnappings and hijackings it carried out in the 1980s and early 1990s. Hezbollah was behind the 1983 suicide bombing in Beirut that killed 241 US Marines.

Coalition government

Hezbollah has been actively involved in the Lebanese political system since 1992, mostly as an opposition party.

But after the 2005 elections, it became a member of the coalition government. Hezbollah and a few parties it had aligned with took the maximum 35 seats available to Shiite Muslims in the 128-member Parliament. Hezbollah members now head the energy and labor ministries. A third minister is endorsed by the group.

The group has garnered popular Lebanese support by setting up schools, hospitals and other social services.

Fighters

A US State Department report in 1993 placed Hezbollah's strength at several thousands. However, Hezbollah sources quoted in a report by GlobalSecurity.org placed the number of fighters between 5,000 and 10,000. Other sources reported a core of 300 to 400 fighters trained by Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

The Revolutionary Guards are said to have maintained a presence in Lebanon since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran.

Hezbollah operates in Lebanon's Shiite-dominated areas in parts of Beirut, southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

Missiles

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech last year that his group had more than 12,000 rockets, believed to be mostly Katyusha rockets.

Israel believes Hezbollah has missiles that can hit most of Israel. Iran supplied Hezbollah with solid-fuel, Zelzal-2 missiles with a 200-km range, but these are not very accurate, since they do not have a self-guidance system.

The Zelzal-2 missiles are equipped with explosive warheads weighing up to 600 kg.

Hezbollah's original Katyusha rockets had a range of 12 km to 22 km. At a later stage, it obtained from Iran longer-range systems, including the 240-mm Fajr-3 rocket with a range of about 45 km, and the 333-mm Fajr-5 rockets, with a range of 75 km, according to Israeli officials. The Fajr-5 could reach the northern Israeli city of Haifa and areas even farther south.

Resolution 1559

The group also has Syrian-made 22-mm rockets with a range of several dozen kilometers.

Hezbollah is also believed to have a sophisticated anti-ship cruise missile, the C-802, an Iranian-made variant of the Chinese Silkworm.



HOLDING posters of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, young Lebanese men chant slogans during an anti-Israeli demonstration at Palestine Square in Tehran, Iran on July 18.

The group has rejected Resolution 1559 that the UN Security Council passed two years ago. The resolution demands that Hezbollah and other Lebanese militias disarm.

Hezbollah receives support in terms of finances, training, weapons and explosives, as well as political, diplomatic and organizational aid from nearby countries Iran and Syria.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been threatening Israel with destruction and keeps denying the Holocaust.

Syria had dominated Lebanon's foreign policy and occupied it since 1976, shortly after the start of the Lebanese civil war. Just before the May 2005 elections in Lebanon, Syria ordered the pullout of some 15,000 troops from its neighbor amid a popular uprising.

Act of war

On July 12, Hezbollah fighters launched Katyusha rockets into Israel. They also killed eight Israeli soldiers and seized two others during a cross-border raid, a move that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert described as "an act of war."

Israeli retaliation involved planes bombing Hezbollah posts in southern Lebanon, Beirut and its international airport, Tyre and Tripoli and troops crossing into southern Lebanon for the first time since 2000.

Israel also resorted to an air and sea blockade of Lebanon.

Hezbollah fired rockets into Israeli settlements in northern Israel, including Haifa, Israel's third-largest city. The attack on Haifa killed eight Israelis.

By July 14, Nasrallah promised "open war" against Israel after his offices in Beirut were bombed.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora called for international help, saying his country was a "disaster zone."

At least 300 people have been killed more than a week into the assault. *Kate V. Pedrosa, PDI Research*

Muslim Brotherhood

HAMAS IS AN ISLAMIC fundamentalist organization formed by sheikh Ahmed Yassin at the beginning of the first intifada (uprising) in December 1987. A Sunni group, Hamas is an offshoot of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, a movement which can be taken to mean "zeal, courage or bravery" to stand as an acronym for *Harakat Al Muqawama Al-Islamiya* (Islamic Resistance Movement). Hamas is dedicated to the establishment of an Islamic Palestinian state that encompasses Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

It does not recognize the right of Israel to exist. Its charter, approved in 1988, promotes the basic Hamas goal of "destroying the state of Israel through jihad (Islamic holy war)." Hamas believes that the entire Palestine, including the present-day territories of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, is a holy possession "consecrated for future Muslim generations."

Prime minister

Throughout dominant party, the Palestine Liberation Organization, along with its biggest faction, Fatah, recognizes Israel. In January 2006, Hamas surprised the world by winning majority (at least 70) of the 132 seats in the Palestinian Parliament, leaving only 45 seats to Fatah, which had dominated Parliament since former PLO chair, the late Yasser Arafat, took his office in 1994. The current prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, is from Hamas.

Hamas began participating in Palestinian elections after Arafat died in 2004. The

group was popular among impoverished Palestinians because of its health, education and welfare services and because of its reputation as not being corrupt.

Social programs

Its social programs include the building of schools, hospitals and religious institutions. Fatah's inability to provide basic services, the corruption scandals in the Palestinian Authority and high unemployment, contribute greatly to Hamas' victory in January.

The results of the election alarmed other countries and international organizations, such as the United States and the European Union, which had branded Hamas as a terrorist group.



Despite threats of discontinued funding, Hamas refused to agree with the conditions set forth by Russia, the EU, the US and the United Nations—which mainly involved the disbandment of Hamas' armed wing and its recognition of Israel.

Aid cut

In April, following the suspension of all contact with the Hamas-led Palestinian government, the US banned all kinds of dealing with the Hamas government. The ban involved all "transactions with the Palestinian Authority," including money transfer, payment, withdrawal, export or any kind of deal with "assets in which the Palestinian Authority has an interest unless authorized."

The US, along with the EU, decided to stop sending "all but humanitarian aid" as Hamas continued to insist on refusing to recognize Israel's right to exist and renounce violence. Israel, which had been collecting taxes on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, announced a "permanent halt" to the monthly transfer of about \$50 million in revenues.

Banks have also refused to deal with the Palestinian Authority, fearing lawsuits by the US, which has prohibited all kinds of commercial dealings with Hamas.

The fund freeze resulted in unpaid salaries for some 165,000 Palestinian government workers, over which sporadic protests have already broken out.

Qassam rockets

Hamas' military wing is believed to be composed of more than 1,000 active members, according to a June 2006 report by the Council on Foreign Relations. Its sympathizers and supporters are said to number "thousands."

Aside from training suicide bombers for the intifada, Hamas has accepted responsibility for assaults on Israeli targets using mortars and Qassam rockets (improved short-range weapons).

The rockets, which are 75 cm to 195 cm long, are usually made from metal tubing. They are fired from metal stands and have a maximum range of 14 km.

Funding for Hamas come from Palestinian expatriates, private donors from Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Persian Gulf states. Iran is also reportedly funding Hamas.

Syria, for its part, harbors Khaled Meshal, the political leader of Hamas.

Corporal Shalit

In the hours following the Hamas attack on an Israeli army border post on June 25, Israel sent tanks and troops into Gaza in the largest Israeli ground operation on the Gaza Strip since its withdrawal from the territory last year.

Israel seized on June 29 at least 60 Hamas officials from the West Bank in order to pressure the Palestinian militants into releasing Corporal Gilad Shalit, who was abducted during the Hamas raid.

Militants from Gaza retaliated by firing a rocket into Ashdod on July 4. Israel has rejected demands to release Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Shalit. *Kate V. Pedrosa, PDI Research*

LEBANON	
Capital: Beirut	
Land area: 10,400 sq km	
Population: 3,874,050	
Language: Arabic, French	
GDP per capita: \$6,200	
Armed forces: About 60,000	
<p>Lebanon, the land of the Phoenicians centuries before Christ, was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire from 1516 to 1918. In 1920, by a French decree, the mountainous territory was called "Grand-Liban" or Great Lebanon.</p> <p>The state remained under the French until the republic's independence on Nov. 22, 1943. Departure of foreign troops on the republic's territory was completed on Dec. 31, 1946.</p>	
<p>Civil war</p> <p>Lebanon has a mixed population of Christians (Maronite, Greek Orthodox or Greek Roman Catholic), and Sunni, Shia and Druze Islamic sects. From 1975 until the early 1980s, Lebanon suffered a civil war and became the battlefield of Israel, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The civil war claimed more than 150,000 lives.</p> <p>Shortly after the war started, Syrian troops moved into Lebanon. Israel invaded the country in 1978 and in 1982 until it pulled back to a security zone. Israeli troops withdrew in May 2000.</p> <p>In 1978, a UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) was created to "confirm Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security and help the Lebanese government restore effective authority in the area. Unifil, still based in southern Lebanon, has 1,990 troops.</p> <p>An accord in 1989 that formally ended the civil war reserved key government positions for each main religious group. It says that Lebanon's prime</p>	

minister should be a Sunni Muslim, the president a Maronite Christian and the speaker of Parliament a Shiite Muslim.

Syria exerted strong influence on Lebanese politics until 2005 when it pulled back its forces, putting an end to a military presence of 29 years.

Assassination

The departure of Syrian troops resulted from the uprising that protested the killing of Rafik Hariri, a former prime minister, by a car bomb in February 2005. Opposition groups in Lebanon blamed Syria.

Ra lies were held in Beirut for and against Syria in March 2005. It all ended with the fall of the Syrian-backed government in April 2005. Then Prime Minister Omar Karam, stepped down.

The departure of Syria gave Hezbollah a bigger role in Lebanon. After the 2005 elections, it became part of the coalition government.

Mel Lawrence de Guzman, PDI Research

INQUIRER Mindanao

Women power on handmade paper

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Panabo City

HER FINGERS RAN GENTLY through the grayish brown thick paper as if caressing it, turning it over carefully in great anticipation of a colorful export-quality product.

Later, as she cleaned the smear of paste off her fingers, she confessed that her two-month job would always send her feelings of exhaustion and pleasure at the end of the day.

"It is also tiring, but the tiring part of the job is a given. The consolation, though, is the product itself that naturally washes the exhaustion off," said Mary Flor Paraña, 18, as she showed off the paper that looked like a picture frame in the making.

Paraña works as a "converter," along with other out-of-school youth and jobless women, in a nongovernment organization called the Kababayan-an Aung sa Teknolohiya nga Haum sa Kinayahan ug Kauswagan (loosely translated as Empowering Women in Agriculture through Appropriate Technology in Harmony with the Environment) or Katakus.

She converts handmade paper in to products like greeting and invitation cards, scrap books, picture frames, boxes, gift bags and lampshades, which are often seen or displayed in malls and luxurious, stylish houses locally and abroad.

For the community

Like other women, young and old, Paraña sweats it out to produce items that will benefit her small community in Katipunan, Panabo City in Davao del Norte.

With her earnings, she intends to continue her education next school year.

The women in Katipunan are also engaged in gathering raw materials, like cogon grass, abaca, banana and durian husks, which are made into colorful papers.

The city-based Katakus (which also means propriety or efficiency) supports the women's peasant group Kababayan-an sa Katipunan along sa Kawambuan (Katipunan Women for Development) or the KKK. The partnership has grown stronger since the handmade paper project started in 1994.

At first, the project was undertaken by another nongovernment organization, Devlink, which was responsible for the technology and funding, with the technical support of the Department of Science and Technology, said Betty More, executive director of Katakus.

For the environment

As an environmental group, Katakus promotes sustainable agriculture among farming communities of Davao and Davao del Norte to improve their food security and livelihood.

It also advocates the protection of the environment through the promotion of organic and diversified agriculture. It considers the reliance of monoculture farming, like banana and pineapple plantations, on synthetic chemicals a big threat to the people's livelihood and health and the environment.

Katakus recognizes the important role of women in rural development by imparting skills to achieve integrated systems of organic agriculture, production through appropriate and nature-friendly technologies.

More said the paper project was a response to the need of women in the community for a source of income, using materials that are raw or indigenous to the community.

"We conducted a socioeconomic study in the village and (through their own help and initiative, it was realized that the area was actually rich with raw materials which can be used to fill-in the need of village women," she said.

For the women

The groups behind the KKK saw the potentials and interest of the women, More said.

Through the help of Devlink and the DOST, the handmade paper project was launched. Initially, the women got only P5,000 as production and operations fund. Their first product: A...season cards.

"The first few operations went through a tough time. It was on-and-off, depending on the availability of funds. And their products were all waiting in creativity and style," More said.

After three trying years, the group underwent the most needed facelift. Their organization strengthened and their products evolved from something mediocre to competitive.

"Women are naturally creative but there was a need for someone to draw out from them that hidden creativity and skills. This was the reason we needed some designers who taught the women how to spruce up their materials—from dying the papers to the actual conversion and production," More said.

The Asia Fair Trade Forum sent a Filipino designer to help the group. The designer, More said, had been involved in projects of

member-organizations of the Forum in other countries.

World-class products

She said the group was constantly invited to different skill enhancement training sessions, which had tremendously helped the Katakus women develop world-class products.

Last year, their products were adjudged the National Shoppers Choice by the Asia-Pacific Shoppers Choice Institute. They were also named No. 1 Handmade Paper Products during the National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards.

In 1996, the handmade items were chosen Second Best Product by the Canadian International Development Agency during the Canada Fund Trade Fair and Exhibition.

Today, the products are sold in the domestic market, where demand is growing, and exported to the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Japan, United Kingdom and Canada.

Establishing the markets was not done overnight, More said, but through effective linkages with other groups and maintaining the quality of the products.

Making a difference

"Paper making has really made a difference in our lives that is why we are doing everything that we can to make quality papers and make the public happy," said Veronica Mahinay, chairperson of the KKK.

One successful product, she said, is never enough reason for them to stop.

"When there are volumes of orders, we work even until nine in the evening to meet the deadline and the demand. Still, we do not compromise the quality of the product that we deliver because the customers might change their hearts and instead get papers from others," she said.

Last year, the group reached its target in come of P1 million, 35 percent of which came from exports. In 2004, the group earned its target of P700,000, and the year before, P500,000.

So far, the KKK is the only group that produces handmade paper from durian fibers.

"We are proud of our products that really passed quality standards, but our edge now over other handmade paper producers is that we are so far the only organization using durian as a raw material," More said.

Durian as raw material is a lot cheaper and fibrous compared to other sources, she said. Fibers extracted from durian are stronger than those from cogon, banana, and abaca.

"But while the preparation is so meticulous, we don't actually consider this as a challenge. What we are more challenged to do now is to provide women with job, making them more empowered and a productive sector of society," she stressed.

More said the group was working on their accreditation with the International Federation of Alternative Trade, which could be the easy gateway to penetrate other foreign countries.

"We want to see more women empowered more working productive women," she said.

Not only did the project helped empower women but it also helped strengthen family values, said Juanita Galgo, another KKK member.

"Through the project, my family learned the art of helping out each other with every household responsibility. My children are now helping my husband in the farm and with other chores. My husband would even cook food and bring some to me whenever I am working late," Galgo said.



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for 2006 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	P 7,253,442.00 At P 33.48 per card (216,650 pieces)	August 4, 2006 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	August 17, 2006 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 5,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecanlos, 2nd floor PRC Main Bldg. starting on July 24, 2006. Start of the issuance of Certification of Registration to bidders shall be on August 4, 2006.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on July 24, 2006 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's need.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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18-YEAR-OLD Mary Flor Paraña (top right) working for her tuition next school year. Lampshades made out of durian fibers, a breakthrough in the local handmade paper industry only by women of Katipunan.

PHOTOS BY JEFFREY M. TUPAS



THESE colorful scrap books are produced by the village women of Katipunan in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

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1 more added to death toll of Left

PALAUIG, ZAMBALES—THE KILLINGS AND ABDUCTIONS of political activists and their supporters have resumed in Central Luzon after a two-week respite.

Just more than 24 hours apart, a supporter of the party-list group Anakpawis was gunned down, a labor leader was illegally arrested and four activists were abducted, reports from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said on Saturday.

Arnel Guevarra, a vendor and an Anakpawis supporter, was

shot and killed by a lone gunman in his house in Mexico, Pampanga, at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.

Police said the gunman, armed with an M-16 rifle, shot Guevarra, 41, in the head. The suspect and his two companions fled toward the Abacan River in Angeles City, according to the police.

Witnesses said the suspects were looking for Guevarra's father, Oscar, and his brother, Marlon.

Bayan said Lowe Sangalang, a labor leader at a poultry farm, was picked up by soldiers in his house in Barangay Queblawan in the City of San Fernando on Thursday night.

Col. Ricardo Visaya, commander of the 69th Infantry Battalion, on Saturday confirmed that Sangalang was in the Army's headquarters in Mexico.

Visaya said Sangalang was invited for questioning on his links with the

New People's Army. He said the labor leader agreed to come on the approval of the barangay captain. Roman Polintan, Bayan Central Luzon chair, said Sangalang was being held and interrogated without a lawyer.

The four activists, on the other hand, were abducted in Lupao, Nueva Ecija, also on Thursday night. Polintan said no other details were available as Army officials barred the entry of Bayan's fact-finding mission there.

In Isabela, a member of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas was shot and wounded in

front of a public market in Ilagan town on Friday.

Supt. Romeo Uy, Ilagan police chief, said Benjamin Lozano, 52, also village chief of Santa Victoria, was taken to the Faustino Dy Sr. Memorial Hospital and was reported to be in critical condition.

Uy said Lozano was shot in the back by two men aboard a motorcycle at about 3 p.m.

The attack came a day after Madonna Castillo, Anakpawis-Isabela secretary general, was

shot and killed by two men in Echague town.

In Baguio City, relatives of a suspected NPA rebel, who was arrested by soldiers in an encounter on June 7, asked Army officials to present him.

Benita Canifio said her son, Delfin, 23, has been missing since the encounter in Sallapadan, Abra. She said her son was wounded in that clash.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Villamor Visaya Jr. and Desiree Calaza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



LIVELIHOOD

Fishermen set out in their daily work on Guimaras Island despite stormy weather recently that brought big waves and strong winds. The view of a side of a mountain on the island does not betray the stormy weather that these fishermen in their small boat are facing out in the sea.

APRIL 2006/PHOTO BY VISAYAS BUREAU

Suspended Baguio mayor's supporters hold rally

BAGUIO CITY—MEMBERS OF THE city's old families gathered in downtown Baguio on Saturday to plead the case of suspended Mayor Braulio Yaranon before Malacañang.

More than 800 residents, market vendors, lawyers and businessmen, and members of militant organizations marched on Session Road to protect Yaranon from "immigrant politicians and businessmen" who intend "to plunder the city in his absence."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, citing a Department of the Interior and Local Government report, ordered Yaranon on June 26 to serve two six-month suspensions for a series of administrative orders that encouraged motorists to defy a pay parking ordinance being enforced by the Jadewell Pay Parking Corp.

It was a Jadewell complaint at the DILG that became the basis of Yaranon's suspension.

Yaranon, a retired regional trial court judge, has appealed the order and continues to hold office. But Vice Mayor Renaldo "Peter Rey" Bautista Jr. took his oath of office as acting mayor on Thursday without informing Yaranon of his decision.

Bautista said he simply complied with Ermita's instructions.



A SOMBER looking Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon continues to hold office at the City Hall following his suspension for a year for turning against a pay parking firm that he stopped from collecting parking fees and towing vehicles in the city.

TOOTS SOBEN/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Yaranon and Bautista said the oath-taking had crushed their political partnership. In 2004, they ran successfully under the Koalisyon Komra Katiwalian (KKK) against local administration candidates.

Bautista and Councilor Daniel

said people should blame Jadewell for polarizing the KKK and the city.

Rogelio Tan, Jadewell president, won a 12-year contract to operate computerized pay parking meters in the city in 2001.

The marchers, however, never

referred to Bautista's recent actions when they rallied behind the call of Baguio-Benguet Bishop Carlito Cenzon.

"We were advised not to make any political references to protect the mayor because he did not organize this [march]. This was purely our initiative. This is old Baguio retaliating against immigrants who are ruining our culture," said Rebecca Luyk, an environmental activist.

But militants belonging to the Cordillera Peoples Alliance said the people who marched represented the political base that helped Yaranon, Bautista, Parillas and other KKK candidates win against the more organized and better funded Lakas-CMD candidates.

Baguio old-timers carried papers containing signatures that accompanied a petition calling for the junking of the Jadewell contract.

Cenzon's group carried streamers that read "Help us, Madame GMA. Protect us from the evil that is on our streets."

Tan, who watched the protest rally from the sidewalk, countered with his own banner along Harrison Road that read: "Don't let Baguio down. Support the rule of law." Vincent Cabrera, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Tree planting launched

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has launched a re-greening project that will involve the planting of trees along the shoulders of the Maharlika Highway in Cagayan Valley. Dubbed the "Green Philippine Highways," the project will cover the highway's stretch in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan. DENR regional executive director Clarence Baguilat said they would tap volunteers from government and nongovernment agencies, the schools and barangays for the project. In Cagayan, the project will cover Claveria, Aparri, Lallo and Enrile towns and Tuguegarao City.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 cops, militiaman slain

ZAMBANGA CITY—At least two police officers and a member of the civilian volunteers' organization (CVO) were killed in an ambush by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Barangay Bualo in the town. Sulu police chief Senior Supt. Ahumad Ajirm identified the casualties as SPO3 Ailing Jumin and SPO3 Amon Ismael. He did not identify the slain CVO member. Three others were injured in the attack, he said. The policemen were in "clearing operations" when they were waylaid. Since Monday, government security forces have been battling Abu Sayyaf bandits under Alibader Parad.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 killed in Kudarat attack

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two civilians were killed while two others were injured when unidentified armed men attacked the Badjanon village in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat on July 15. Palimbang Mayor Labualas Mamansual said the motive of the attack could be personal vendetta as it happened just a day after a village official was shot dead by a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit in the area. Mamansual identified the slain civilians as Elpidio dela Cruz and Rodolfo Cabangon, and the injured as Junifer Asas and Joseph Davez. Asas and Davez are still in critical condition in a hospital here.

Aquiles Z. Zonia, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tension in N. Cotabato village

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Tension is rising in a remote village of Makilala, North Cotabato as armed men, identified with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), have allegedly been harassing farmers in the area. The MILF, on the other hand, claimed that North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, old Moro farmers to vacate the farmlands to allow settlers to come in. The farmers have called on an international body to monitor the government and MILF ceasefire agreement and intervene to prevent bloodshed. Piñol denied the MILF claim, and called for a dialogue. The MILF said the Moro farmers were the original inhabitants of Malabuan but were driven out during the war in the 1970s.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Reading project in Benguet

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Mayor

Nestor Fongwan performed the unfamiliar role of a fairy tale story teller here on Tuesday and the Department of Education was delighted he did the job with zest. For about 20 minutes, Fongwan read the English story "The Musicians of Bremen" before amused teachers, DepEd supervisors and 250 pupils of the La Trinidad Central School.

"The mayor's loud voice and dramatic reading won smiles from the pupils," said principal Andres Pawid. The activity formed part of the nationwide launching of the DepEd's "Read-A-Thon Project" aimed at fostering a culture of reading in all of the country's public elementary schools. The target is for pupils to read at least three books a year through a nationwide reading marathon but conducted separately by schools in their areas.

Delmar Carillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 electrocuted

LUCENA CITY—Three persons died and 10 others were seriously injured in two separate incidents of electrocution in Quezon province on July 20. Police said a ferris wheel on a test run accidentally touched a high tension wire due to strong winds in Lusacan, Tiaong. The accident caused the immediate death of Analise Marasigan, a resident of Sitio Pitong Galang, who was washing clothes below, and Renante Sabili, the ferris wheel operator. Both were severely burned by the high electric voltage. Some of the ferris wheel workers and other festa fair workers were also severely injured. On Wednesday, a resident of Calauag town, also died of electrocution and a companion was hurt after an electric post fell on them due to strong winds as they were travelling aboard a motorcycle.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Jueteng,' bookies defeating gov't lottery STL in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—THE GOVERNMENT's attempt to kill the underworld lottery "jueteng" with a legal form of gambling, the Small Town Lottery, appears to be a failure in Quezon province as unlicensed outlets, called bookies, are undermining STL operations, an STL operator said.

Jose Gonzales, operations manager of Pirouette Corp., said the operation of bookies is eating away income from STL.

"If this low collection trend will continue, the revenues that we've been submitting to the gov-

ernment will also be affected," he said in a mobile phone interview.

When asked if Rosario Magbuhos or "Aling Charing" of San Pablo City, a known jueteng operator, was behind Pirouette Corp. as being circulated by STL collectors themselves, Gonzales simply replied, "We don't have that name in our list of incorporators."

Familiar name

A source, however, said Magbuhos' name surfaces whenever one talks of bookies.

The Inquirer learned from a provincial police official that most bookie operations were being run and managed by local officials and their relatives.

"That's the reason why they can operate with impunity in their respective localities, as the local police can't do anything to stop them," said the police official who requested anonymity.

Gonzales refuted the news report that STL operators also maintain "illegal operations."

He dared Quezon law enforcers to conduct raids against

the operations of all illegal numbers game in Quezon.

Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr., Quezon police chief, boasted to the Inquirer that jueteng had already stopped in the province.

"We have been receiving reports of bookie operations in some towns in the boundaries of Quezon and Batangas. But we're not remiss in our duties. As a matter of fact, we already arrested some of the suspects," Caragan said.

In some other areas in Southern Luzon, jueteng has reportedly resurfaced.

In Cavite, the name of Danny Cupcupin has been floating as the operator.

Operators identified

In the Bicol provinces, the names that cropped up as jueteng operators are Leony Lim in Sorsogon, Hermie Herrera in Camarines Sur, and Dante del Mundo in Camarines Norte.

In Albay province, several names have cropped up. Carding Ong and Leony Lim in the first district, Nora de Leon and Charing Magbuhos in the second dis-

trict, and Tony Ong and a certain Garcia in the third district.

When informed of the resurgence of the illegal numbers game in the province, an angry Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzales immediately ordered Supt. Roque Ramirez, Albay provincial police director, to go after the jueteng operators and other people involved in the illegal game.

If Ramirez cannot put stop on jueteng, he will certainly lose his post, a police officer said. Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Ephraim Aguilan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



LIFE GOES ON

A farmer carries a jackfruit down the slope within the 6-km permanent danger zone around restive Mayon volcano. Some villagers living near the volcano continue with their daily routine while most have heeded warnings to flee ahead of an expected eruption in the coming days.

EDMUND BACKS

Bishop: Human life becoming cheap under GMA

By Torette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto decried the "rampant cheapening of human rights" in Central Luzon as he led the Catholic Church's social action centers and people's organizations in launching a coalition of defenders of civil, political and economic rights.

Aniceto, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged as her adviser on population and family life program, called for a "solidarity, deeper faith in God and authentic human development" as he convened on Friday the Central Luzon Human Rights Defender (Defend-CL).

"We must have a civilization of love where the dignity of the human person is at the center of our social concern," he said.

Aniceto said he and other bishops in the region, as human rights advocates, would help put in place a "creative, effective, peaceful and relevant movement to protect and raise the dignity of the people."

The co-convenors are the Citizens Council for Human Rights (CCHR), Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) and Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD).

Max de Mesa, CCHR national spokesperson, said social, political, economic, cultural and civil rights in the Philippines are occurring under a "coercive environment and culture of impunity." This as the Arroyo administration undertakes programs in liberalizing the economy and joining the war against

terrorism while it is accused of "wide scale graft and corruption."

TFDP reports showed that under the Arroyo administration, there were 1,291 victims of arrest and detention, extra-judicial executions, 55, disappearances, 54 incidents of massacre, 107, torture victims, 219, and 14 cross-fire casualties.

In Central Luzon, at least 80 activists have been killed since 2005, mostly leaders and members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), its affiliates and party-list groups.

The attacks had been attributed to the military under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the 7th Infantry Division. Palparan had denied involvement in the killings.

De Mesa said CCHR reported the human rights situation in the Philippines to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) on July 19 when the Philippines became a member of the body.

"The Philippine government is failing in its obligation to protect human rights," De Mesa said.

He said the Philippine government risks earning "embarrassment in the international community of nations" when the situation is tackled by the UNCHR in a meeting in September in Geneva.

Aniceto said he has called the attention of Ms. Arroyo on the human rights violations in Central Luzon.

The President, he said, assured him that she has ordered the Philippine National Police to investigate the incidents and institute measures to stop human rights abuses.

Cops present another suspect in rádioman's slay

DAVAO CITY—POLICE IN DIGOS City on Friday presented to the media another suspect in the July 18 murder of broadcaster Armando Pace.

But this time, the police said they were sure that Joy Anticamara of Hagonoy, Davao del Sur was the gunman.

Police Deputy Director General Isidro Lapeña told reporters during the presentation that Anticamara, 25, was positively identified by a witness as the one who shot and killed Pace.

Pace, 51, a resident of Barangay Tres de Mayo in Digos City, was driving his motorcycle along the busy Rizal Avenue in the city when shot several times by one of

two motorcycle-riding men using a .45 cal. pistol at about 1.15 p.m.

Rizal Avenue is also where many commercial establishments and the Davao del Sur National High School are.

Chief Insp. Cesar Cabuhat, Digos City police chief, said the perpetrators could have followed Pace from the station.

"He was hit thrice. One in the neck and in the left breast just above the heart and in the shoulder," Cabuhat said.

He said one of the perpetrators even alighted from the motorcycle and fired several more shots at Pace, who fell to the concrete pavement.

Cabuhat said when the assassins fled, bystanders picked up

Pace, popularly known as Raci-man, and rushed him to the Davao del Sur provincial hospital where he died several minutes later.

Pace regularly criticized politicians and even businessmen for their alleged wrong-doings.

He was imprisoned once for failing to post a bail in connection with a libel case filed by a politician a few years ago. He always bragged that he was the most sued broadcaster with about 99 libel suits.

Lapeña said Anticamara, also known as Tungol, was arrested in Hagonoy town, about 14 km from Digos City, on Thursday afternoon.

"He was positively identified

by a witness who now works with us to resolve the case," he said.

Based on the account of the witness, Anticamara was one of the two motorcycle-riding men who were trailing Pace on July 18.

The witness, who is now under police custody, said Anticamara was wearing a cap during the attack and, after shooting Pace, he casually tucked in the pistol he used.

Lapeña said the witness' testimony was solid because she personally knew Anticamara.

But Lapeña said the police have yet to determine the motive or the mastermind behind Pace's death. Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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ENVOY'S CALL

US Ambassador Kristina Kenney (left) visits the Dell Training and Recruitment Facility at the RBCB Plaza in Makati City during a meeting of officials of Business Processing Association of the Philippines member-companies. The meeting included discussions on promoting the country further as a global leader in the business processing outsourcing and IT-related industries. Dell Human Resources Director Penny Bongato (right) shows Kenney around.



War in Lebanon claims its first Filipino casualty

By Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A DOMESTIC HELPER FROM Barangay Singang in this city became the first

known Filipino casualty of the raging conflict in the Middle East. She was wounded in Lebanon when fighting between the Israelis and the Hezbollah guerrillas broke out last week.

Rosalyn Cuevas, who works for a Lebanese family in Beirut, called her sister Rosanna on Monday to tell her she had been injured on the right arm and has been confined at the Al Ryan Hospital in Lebanon for three days, according to officer-in-charge Jeff Esperanzate of the Bacolod City Office of Sectoral Concerns.

Esperanzate said he was informed that Rosalyn's female employer was also injured in the war but they had no idea how it happened.

However, Esperanzate said, when Rosalyn's family contacted her Lebanese employer, identified as Samir Youssef Farhat, the latter denied that Rosalyn was working for him.

Negrenses divided

Esperanzate said his office had informed the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in Manila that Rosalyn was in a hospital, and that the Owwa then forwarded data about her to the Philippine Embassy in Beirut.

Negrenses in Lebanon are divided over whether to come home or not—with some fearing for their lives and others saying they were living away from danger areas and wanted to continue to work there, said Esperanzate, quoting information from the OWFs' families here.

Joy Lopez, whose wife Maryann works as a domestic helper in Beirut, said he talked to her yesterday and she told him that she was scared and wanted to come home but her employer would not let her leave.

Sounds of bombing

Lopez said Maryann told him she was in the mountain resort house of her employer, about an hour away from Beirut.

"But as I talked to her I could hear the sound of bombings. Even I was scared," he said.

Raymund Bocalon, who talked to his wife Melba, 25, said she told him she was safe and that she was staying with her employer in their mountain retreat house.

Melba has been working in Lebanon as a domestic helper for two years and has no plans to come home.

2 daughters

A worried Edna Quibete of La Carlota City, whose two daughters are working in Lebanon, was weeping yesterday when she arrived at the capitol to make her phone call. She was able to reach her daughters, who assured her that they were safe and did not want to come home.

Quibete said her daughters Shiera, 27, and Erna, 24, told her they were far from the fighting although they could hear airplanes flying overhead.

Palace to Drilon: Help, don't talk

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACANANG YESTERDAY HIT BACK AT Senate President Franklin Drilon for his "pestering comments" at a time when the government was faced with the problem of ensuring the safety of 30,000 Filipinos stranded in Lebanon.

The Palace was reacting to Drilon's statement belittling the P150 million the government had set aside for the evacuation of the OFWs, when the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) had P7.6 billion in cash reserves.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said in a briefing: "We don't mind them but we just can't help but notice that they consistently come out with pestering comments instead of helping us out. I hope they stop soon and think about the crisis facing our fellow countrymen in the Middle East."

Defensor was more open to the concerns raised by Fr. Agustin Advincula, the lone Filipino priest in Lebanon, because he "is very neutral, and he is not malicious." Advincula, who opened his church to evacuees, in an interview with the INQUIRER had questioned the way the government was spending the resources it had for the evacuation effort, and wondered what had happened to the money collected from the OFWs.

Yesterday, Advincula clarified his statement and said he had never complained that the government was limiting its financial assistance for the evacuation effort but that he merely expressed the hope that the funds set aside by the government would be used wisely.

"They are consistently pessimists and negativists instead of just helping us out. As a senator, they can always call on Owwa and ask them where are the funds, how much have been allocated," Defensor said. He said the Owwa funds were for the use of all OFWs all over the world and not just those in Lebanon.

"This is why we have to use it wisely and equitably," Defensor said. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana



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RP's first woman crane operator stands tall in man's world

By Terra V. Quismundo

IN A WORLD OF METAL, MACHINES and men, a 30-year-old woman has made her mark.

Maria Lee Sumadchat is the first and probably only woman in the country certified to operate the 152-ton Rubber Tire Gantry (RTG) crane that is as high as a three-story building. It picks up cargo containers from trucks and piles them onto assigned stacks.

TALES OF THE CITY



Sumadchat is an operations supervisor of the International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) in Tondo, Manila, the only port facility in the country that receives and dispatches international cargo.

"I didn't really know that I was the first until they told me. For me, the reason that I wanted to undergo the training was just to be a better supervisor, to be a more efficient supervisor to my people. That's all that I wanted," said Sumadchat, who has been working for ICTSI for five years now.

After graduating with a degree in mass communication at the AMA Computer College in Antipolo, Rizal, Sumadchat applied for a job at the company which—because of the nature of the work it is involved in—usually prefers the less fairer sex.

"For me, you know that we are only looking for male management trainees? How do you know that you can do it?" she recalled an ICTSI officer asking her during her job interview in 2000.

"Well, sir, in my opinion, the only difference between men and women is that men pee standing up," she told him.

Something in her demeanor must have convinced the ICTSI official be-



MARIA Lee Sumadchat, the first certified woman operator of the Rubber Tire Gantry crane which looms above her.

RAFFY LERMA

cause not only was she hired, she has been given jobs that in the past were only delegated to men.

From checking machines to be repaired, Sumadchat was also placed in charge of taking care of arriving ships and ensuring that they were safely and properly berthed. She was also once given the task of managing cargo government within the 10-hectare Manila International Container Terminal (MICT). Right now, she handles empty containers that need to be repaired or fitted with special implements.

In January 2004, ICTSI offered a training program for its supervisors, superintendents and managers who wanted to learn to operate port equipment. The training was meant to boost the skills of ICTSI officers as well as expand

the pool of port equipment operators who could step in case of a manpower shortage.

The program allowed the company's ranking officers to choose from several heavy equipment: The forklift, the RTG, the stacker (a machine that arranges containers onto stacks up to four levels high) or the quay crane, the largest port equipment which picks up containers from ships berthed at the port.

Sumadchat was the only woman employee who signed up for the two-week program. After a day of orientation, she found herself in orange overalls, a hard hat on her head, carefully climbing the narrow steps leading toward the RTG and crying not to be overwhelmed by a machine that was as tall as a three-story building.

After hours of training from an expert RTG operator, Sumadchat quickly learned how to carefully lift a container from a truck and place it onto a stack by moving the machine's joystick—al. from within the RTG cabin which had a transparent glass floor.

"What always came to my mind was that this was the most expensive thing I've ever driven on wheels. It must be more expensive than any luxury vehicle," she added with a slight chuckle.

Sumadchat has since returned to supervising operations at the ICTSI's empty container depot, a position where her passion has taken her from the day curiosity landed her a job that was then only open to men.

Being in a male-dominated workplace has been a blast for Sumadchat who

would forever carry a manish second name—Lee—because of a faulty ultrasound reading that told her parents they were going to have a baby boy.

"The usual, thinking at the time of my training was that I was probably not 'straight.' But that's not the case. I still take care of my nails and I try to take care of my skin, all the normal, girl things," she said.

More than two years after she underwent port equipment operation training at the ICTSI, no other woman at the company has yet to follow in her footsteps.

"I have been trying to encourage my female colleagues and I've been telling them that they could do the same, but I think they're afraid of making mistakes. But you are allowed to make mistakes. It just takes courage," Sumadchat said.

Atienza says aide has not left country

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE CHIEF OF THE WESTERN METRO Manila Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) yesterday said that they have been coordinating with the courts to verify if Jose Noli Sugay, the special assistant of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who allegedly shot to death a jeepney driver in Tondo, has pending warrants of arrest.

"We have been instructed to effect his arrest immediately if we obtain a valid warrant of arrest against Sugay," Supt. Edgar Wycoco said in a phone interview.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, on the other hand, belied unconfirmed reports that Sugay has left the country.

"I would not allow that to happen," Atienza stressed. "I hope he would not do that because that would only show he is guilty."



AS THE SUN came out yesterday after days of intermittent rains, a man took advantage of the break in the weather by laying out to dry a huge pile of plastic bags. The bags will later be sold to recycling companies. RAFFY LERMA

Two of five escaped prisoners recovered

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TWO OF THE FIVE INMATES WHO broke out of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa City were found dead Friday.

An NBP insider who requested anonymity identified the two as Wilham Osoteo and Arvic Valentino, both inmates at the medium security compound.

Osoteo was shot dead in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite by a jail guard identified as Diomedes Dador. No other details were given about the incident.

The body of Valentino, on the other hand, was found by motorcycle drivers underneath a tree some 250 meters away from the south gate of the medium security compound.

The two, together with Raul Gumba, Alex Pineda and Jojo Punzalan, bolted

jail on Tuesday evening while they were being taken back to their dormitories from the prison hospital.

They were among 10 inmates at the medium security compound who had complained of stomach pains. Only one, however, was admitted to the hospital, which was located at the maximum security compound. On their way back to their dormitories, one of the nine prisoners stabbed one of the three jail guards, triggering a scuffle. Five inmates escaped while the rest were safely returned to the NBP compound.

Skerchy reports said Valentino could have been hit when the jailguards opened fire on the escaping inmates.

The INQUIRER tried to get more details about the recovery of the two prisoners but Vicente Vinarao, Bureau of Corrections director, did not respond to phone calls.

Landmark could face fate of demolished historical buildings

From page A17

shell, totally abandoned, with skeletal window frames and missing or broken glass panes. There are what appear to be art nouveau floral designs of cement approximating wood carvings. The facade is pastel pink and the top story has castle-like formations.

In the middle of the two buildings, with a signboard in both English and Chinese, is the home of the Santa Cruz Volunteer Fire Brigade.

If memory serves right, there used to be an empty space outside the printing press, where late at night the newsboys would come charging out into the street, bearing copies of the first edition of the Times.

Famous Times landmark

Even more famous than the Times building, a landmark within a landmark, was the statue of the newsboy that stood outside the entrance. You might call it a traveling monument, going wherever the new owner of the newspaper takes it. From the Roceses to the Gokongweis, at one time to Mark Jimenez and so on.

Ah, there it is now, outside the new offices of the Manila Times (now owned by the Ang family) on A. Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, beside the old Daily Express building. The newsboy is hawking his copies of the newspaper, a sheaf in his left hand and his right hand holding a copy.

Why, the newsboy even sports what looks like a John F. Kennedy hairstyle. In

fact, from a certain vantage point, he looks uncannily like the late American president.

The Roceses resurrected the Manila Times just in time for the snap elections which would lead to People Power in February 1986. One recalls the headline of the Times at the start of the elections: "Cory Swamps Marcos." In effect, the Times was competing against the major newspapers at that time like the Inquirer, Malaya and the Bulletin Today (now the Manila Bulletin).

Lost glory

The Times did well for a time, but it was never able to recapture its old glory. And the newspaper eventually was sold to taipan John Gokongwei.

In the meantime, the old Manila Times building remained where it was, on Florentino Torres Street, and remains there to this day. "It's under-utilized, it's a dead building," declares Carlos Celdran, a heritage advocate who hosts regular walking tours to landmarks in the city.

The property was sold by the Rocses family in 1973 to the Velasco family, owners of the Fairmarket-Fair Center-Plaza Fair chain of retail establishments. In an interview, Daniel Velasco, Plaza Fair president, said the family left the architecture of the building basically untouched.

The family at first used the property for a member store of the chain. But due to developments in the "fast-paced retail industry," the Velascos had to downscale their Manila operations and the old

Times building became idle.

Velasco, who holds a biology degree from the Ateneo de Manila, fears the idle property might suffer the fate of the demolished Avenue Theater. "The family can only continue preserving the building if half of the property is leased out or sold to another party."

The property, he said, "should be most suitable for a call center, a school, even a hospital or any other institution that would benefit from the building's central location and accessibility to all forms of transportation."

Wanted: Investors

To this end, Velasco has issued a call for investors in the property. But so far, there have been no takers. He blames this on the fact that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has transformed part of the nearby Avenida Rizal into a promenade, renovating the area and rerouting the jeepneys.

"He (Atienza) did not consult us, the owners, and he killed a part of Avenida Rizal," Velasco said. "We are paying taxes at *nahitrapan na kami* (we are hurting). The investors are waiting for the reopening of (that part of) Avenida Rizal." He appealed to the mayor to do this.

Sought for comment, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza told INQUIRER Metro reporter Tina Santos, "Why would they blame our redevelopment project in Avenida? I don't know where those statements are coming from, but you can see for yourself if what they have been claiming is true."

He added, "As far as the city government is concerned, business has been good in the area—it has been booming. *Naging triple pa ang dam ng tao* (People who go there have tripled). Besides, the old Manila Times building is not in Avenida. Florentino Torres is a different area."

One developer wanted to demolish the old Times building but Velasco, himself a heritage advocate, refused.

Tax incentives for landowners

Celdran said Velasco's approach was "more enlightening," adding: "It's sad that there is no law or tax incentive to make it easier for these landowners to preserve their heritage structures. The government should give tax incentives to these landowners."

Yang Kung Yuan, Velasco's father, had dreamed of converting the old Times building into an institution for "the welfare of workers, a pool of scientists and artists, families caring for the aged or a foundation of teachers..."

Velasco would like to turn this vision into reality, although it is rather utopian, "and then we can pass it (the building) on to the next generation." In the meantime, the fate of this Manila landmark remains uncertain although the Plaza Fair president indicates he wants to hold on to it indefinitely.

MALACAÑANG

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCLAMATION NO. 854

DECLARING SUNDAY JULY 23, 2006
AS PHILIPPINE-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan established diplomatic relations with the ratification of the Peace Treaty and Repatriation Agreement on July 23, 1946;

WHEREAS, Japan is a stable democracy and a major player in regional affairs, contributing its influence in the security situation and economic development of East Asia and the region;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan enjoy close, friendly and vibrant relations that have been mutually beneficial to both countries and peoples;

WHEREAS, relations cover a wide range of fields particularly in the political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, development assistance, social cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and labor and consular matters;

WHEREAS, the 60th Anniversary of the Philippine-Japan relations marks appropriate observance and official commemoration;

NOW THEREFORE, I GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare Sunday, July 23, 2006 as Philippine-Japan Friendship Day to mark the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila this 7th day of June in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Five.

By the President
EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary





PHILIPPINES - JAPAN Friendship フィリピン・日本 友好年

EXHIBITS 45/4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MALACANANG PALACE

I would like to convey our warm congratulations to the Government of Japan on the occasion of the Philippines-Japan Friendship year 2006 in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

In support of our commemoration of this milestone, I have issued Proclamations No. 854 and 905 declaring 23 July 2006 as Philippines-Japan Friendship Day and year 2006 as Philippines-Japan Friendship Year.

Through the various events and activities being organized throughout 2006, we seek to highlight the long standing friendship and cooperation between the Philippines and Japan. We also look forward to seeing a more strengthened and expanded ties manifested in increased exchanges in trade, culture and tourism and people-to-people interaction.

I wish Japan and the Japanese people all the best. May our celebration of the Friendship Year 2006 bring peace, progress and prosperity to our two countries and peoples.

Mabuhay

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo



Prime Minister Japan

On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I extend my warmest greetings as we celebrate today the Philippines-Japan Friendship Day.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan. Our partnership is based on the shared values, and it has become a cornerstone of the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

I sincerely hope that this strong partnership will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Mabuhay!

Junichiro Koizumi
Prime Minister of Japan



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan

It is a great pleasure to extend my personal greetings as we celebrate the Philippines-Japan Friendship Day today.

The Philippines and Japan, as true friends in East Asia, have deepened cordial relations for the past 50 years, and our cooperation has become a significant element to bolster regional stability and development.

I am confident that this Philippines-Japan Friendship Year will be an excellent opportunity to advance our bilateral relationship, thus bringing further prosperity of both countries.

Mabuhay!

Taro Aso
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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The Embassy of Japan Manila

I feel very honored to celebrate the Philippines-Japan Friendship Day with the Filipino and the Japanese people in the Philippines. Today, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the normalization of the diplomatic relations between our two countries, and I attribute our excellent and ever-expanding relations to the collective efforts of our two peoples based on our shared values of democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights.

We have already concluded quite a number of successful commemorative events since the start of the Friendship Year. They are the products of the joint collaboration between our two peoples encompassing diverse fields of human endeavors, such as theater, music, Noh, modern dance, paintings, photographs, academic exchanges, science and technology, development of human resources, Ikebana and tea ceremony. Many more events are scheduled, and I am confident that the Philippines-Japan Friendship Day and the Philippines-Japan Friendship Year will deepen our friendship and mutual understanding, thereby further broadening our sphere of cooperation toward a more dynamic partnership in the new millennium.

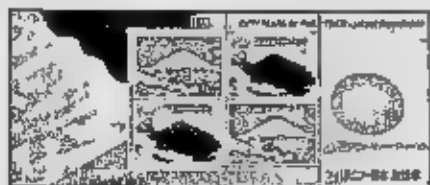
Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Ryoichiro Yamazaki
Ambassador

Philippines - Japan Ties

Since 1888, diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan has been established. Hence, Japan established its first diplomatic office in Manila which was then expanded to a consulate-general in 1919 to entertain consular matters of Japanese immigrants in Davao and Mindanao.

In 1943, the consular office was declared an embassy under the wartime 2nd republic. After the reparation agreements were signed by both countries, Japan formally established its embassy in Manila.



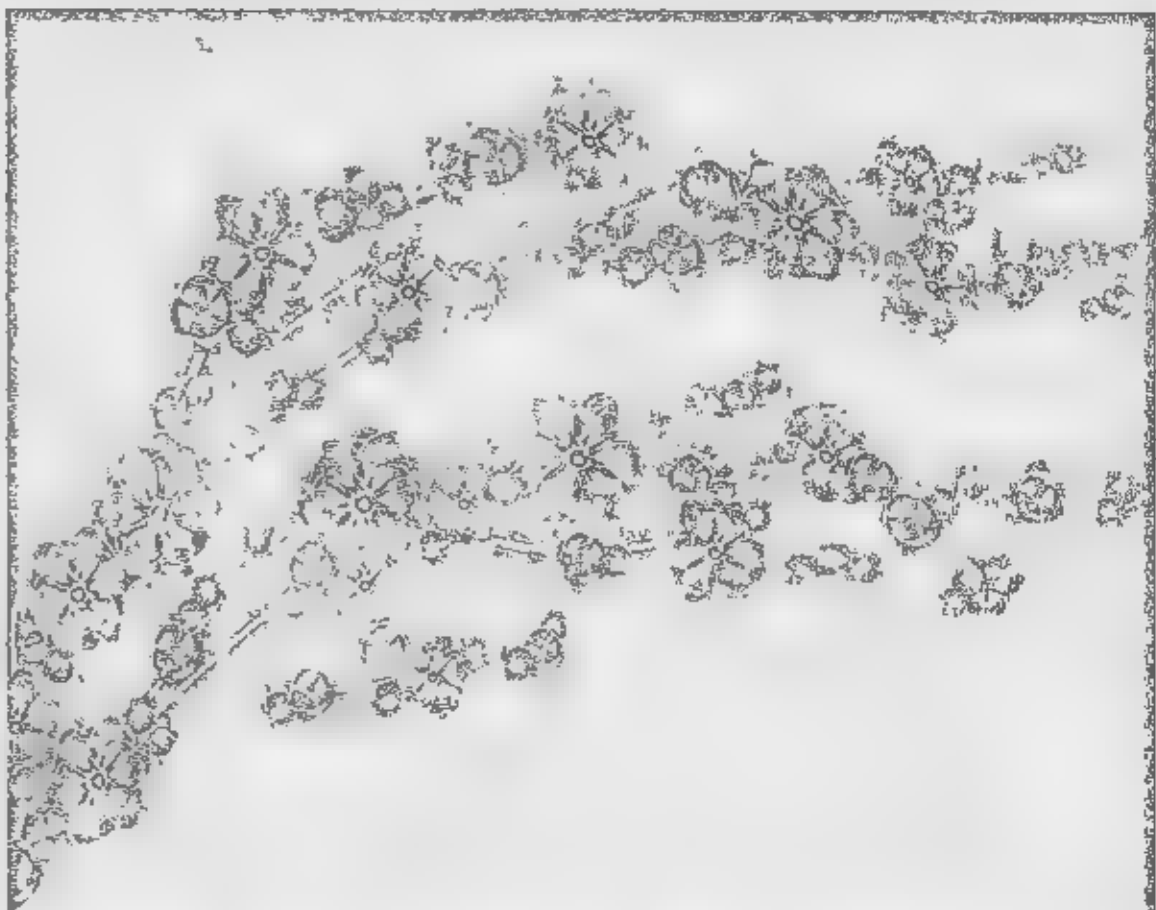
50 YEARS OF PHILIPPINES-JAPAN
FRIENDSHIP
REMEMBERED THROUGH STAMPS

The PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION (Philpost) will issue, circulate and sell stamps to commemorate the "50th Anniversary of Philippines-Japan Friendship" in 2006. Stamps and Official First Day Covers are now available at the Philatelic Service, Door 203, Luninggan Bonifacio, 1000 Manila and all regional offices of the Philippine Postal Corporation or call Tel. No. 527-0132.

On July 23, 1956, The First Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines was Ambassador Koichi Asanuma, while the ambassador of the Philippines to Japan was Amb. Felino Neri.

Over the years, Japan continues to open its doors to the Philippines. The ties between the two countries continue to grow and deepen. The Japanese reiterates their full support for the entire country. The government grant scholarships for Filipinos to study in their country. The Embassy in the Philippines opened a one-stop shop website, for easy access in visa application forms, scholarships, grant assistance, and general inquiries. Friendship societies have been constantly increasing in number. Schools and universities offering Japanese language courses are improving. While intermarriages of Filipinos and Japanese bridged the gap between the two cultures.

Up to this day, Japan continues to make contributions to the improvement of the infrastructures, agriculture, technology and to almost every basic human needs of the Filipinos which clearly manifests the strong cooperation between the Philippines and Japan.

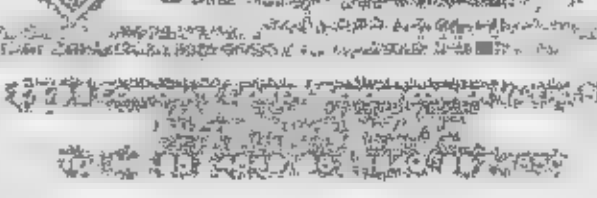


**Real Japanese Goodness,
All Year Round.**

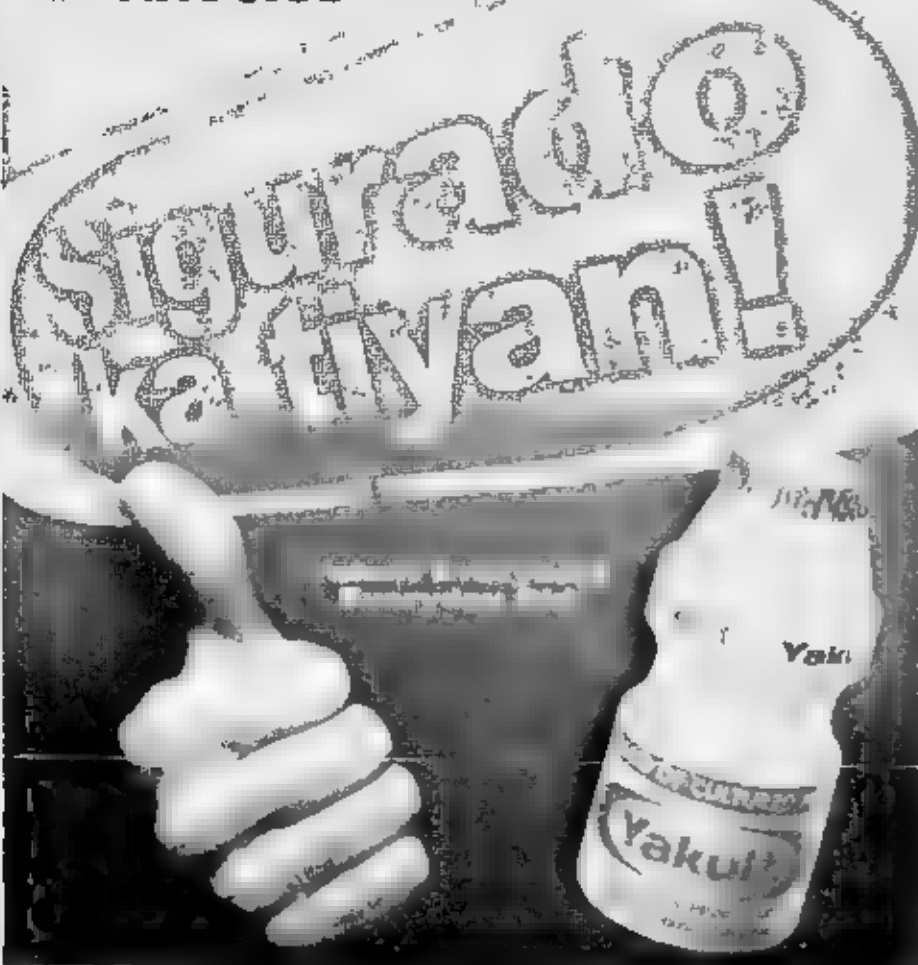
THESE PHILIPPINE JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP YEAR 2006 STAMPS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION (PHILPOST) THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. STAMPS AND OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PHILATELIC SERVICE, DOOR 203, LUNINGGAN BONIFACIO, 1000 MANILA AND ALL REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION OR CALL TEL. NO. 527-0132.



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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Pinoys cook, serve sushi in Cyprus

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LARNACA, CYPRUS—THE foreign guests across the table could only stare in awe as the chef set the teppan ablaze—a fiery opening for a nightly show in this Japanese restaurant seemingly out of place on a strip of fish taverns and Greek diners by the Mediterranean sea.

With a magician's sleight of hand, he launched an egg from his left hand, caught it from behind by his right, cracked it open and then dropped its contents onto a pile of cooked rice he had spread on the stove.

As if holding a pair of maracas, he then juggled the salt and pepper shakers before sprinkling some onto the dish, and mixed the ingredients rhythmically like following a silent beat.

Finally, he scooped the steamy dish onto small bowls and served it to his anxious guests.

Guests surprised

"It's fried rice!" the surprised guests said one by one.

In this tourist district now providing safe transit for thousands of foreign nationals fleeing war-torn Lebanon, an all-Filipino crew of chefs and waiters seem worlds away from conflict, on the job as usual in Russian-owned Sakura Japanese Restaurant. "Naturawa talaga sa amin yung mga guests. Minsan mayroon pang nakikipag-sayaw sa amin. Nakaka-flatter 'pag pinapalakapan nila kami. (They are really delighted with us. Sometimes there are guests who would dance with us. We get really flattered whenever they applaud us)," said 31-year-old Enrico Laroza, a pioneering chef at the restaurant opened a year and two months ago.

Laroza, three other chefs and a pair of waiters prepare and serve sushi, teppanyaki, teriyaki and tempura with Pinoy flavor and flair in this Japanese restaurant on Larnaca's Dhekeleia Road, fronting the row of beachside hotels brimming with tourists from around Europe in the peak of the summer season.

When lonely

More than just giving traditional service, the Pinoy crew render a performance for mostly British, Russian and Cypriot guests Mondays through Saturdays, armed with skills they learned back in Manila.

And just like millions of Filipinos driven out of the country by the need to provide for their families, these six Filipinos braved life in this island country to earn what they could not back home.

"I used to work in Jeddah then I returned in the



WHAT A MIX! Russian businessman Vladimir Kosarev owns the Japanese restaurant along a strip of fish taverns in Larnaca, Cyprus that serves sushi, tempura, teppanyaki, and teriyaki prepared by an all-Filipino kitchen crew. From left, waiter Adonis Macante, and chefs Enrico Laroza, Ruben dela Cruz, Marcos Cinense and Lito Cortez.

They're not just chefs and waiters but performers who wow mostly British, Russian and Cypriot guests six nights a week

Philippines as a cook in a Japanese restaurant, where I earned ₱9,000. But it's not enough.

"I need to work here for my family and my children," said Lito Cortez, 31, who left behind his wife and two children in his native Pangasinan.

"It's been all night, it just takes some adjustment. When I feel homesick, I just call home weekly, sometimes twice weekly. But my situation here is much better," said Cortez, who earns \$800 like his coworkers.

Free board and lodging

Cortez was recruited two months ago as part of the new batch of Pinoy cooks hired by the restaurant, along with Nueva Ecija's Marcos Cinense, 28, and Ruben dela Cruz of Ilocos Sur, 33.

They joined chef Laroza, a native of San Juan, Metro Manila, and waiters Adonis and Leslie Macante, a married couple from Taytay, Rizal, to complete the restaurant's staff which had been depleted when coworkers from Lithuania, England and Cyprus decided to leave.

With compatriots working together, doing the job of each has never been better.

"Our teamwork is better. Sometimes, we just look at each other and we already understand what we mean, so it's better for our service," said Laroza, speaking in Filipino.

Their employer, Russian Vladimir Kosarev, could only agree. "If they are good for me, then I am good for them. Because together, we make business. They make money for me, I give money to them," said Kosarev, who had traveled to the Philippines early last year in search of good chefs for his restaurant.

Discipline as value

Besides the monthly pay, Kosarev gives the staff free meals and provides them housing in an apartment just a short walk away from the restaurant.

Giving high value to discipline, the Russian employer kept reasonable distance from his staff—a necessary stance to keep order in the kitchen. He had fired one Filipino chef last year for coming to work drunk twice despite his warning.

"I was a coach of a football team. And I know what discipline means.

"For example there's an important game for me tomorrow, then before the day I cannot drink anything. I'm thinking of my job," Kosarev explained.

Asked whether the current crew has caused him problems, Kosarev replied "No, knocks on wood. They are funny, we make some jokes."

'I don't shout at them'

"I don't shout at them, because they do not give me problems. I am good to them. I am not high up here, and they are not down there. We are the same. I like it, how they make the show, how they serve," he said.

For the staff meanwhile, it's all a matter of hanging on.

"For me, I would try to last here because life back home is hard. Both my children are still in school," said Cortez. Besides, he said, the blues could be eased by sitting at the nearby beach and watching the Cyprus sun set, as the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean come home to the shore.

Why 'Mr. Suave' look is 'in' among OFWs in the Middle East

By Gian S. Camacho
Contributor

EVER WONDERED WHY ALMOST EVERY male OFW from the Middle East that you meet often sports a mustache?

From your vacationing "tito" who works in Dubai up to the photos of your classmate's dad at work in Saudi, male OFWs from the Middle East almost always have this "Mr. Suave" thing going on.

Even the lovable Kules, the OFW character in Poi Medina Jr.'s Pugad Baboy, won't seem to be the Saudi boy that he is without wearing his facial hair in the comic strips.

The *Inquirer* asked Middle East OFWs from all over on how and why the "Mr. Suave" look appears to be the "in" thing among our compatriots toiling in the Middle East and this is what we found out:

"The mustache, in Arab countries, is a symbol of masculinity," shares Eduardo Sapino, a company supervisor and resident of Saudi Arabia for ten years. "It's an Arab's way of showing how manly he is. Aside from being a symbol for masculinity, the mustache also represents a man's authority over women," he adds.

Pinoy macho

"It is a way of showing everyone that you are 'macho,' especially to the Arabs. In Saudi, you are not a man if you don't wear a mustache," says Jayson Santos, a former company driver in Jeddah.

But is being a testimony to one's manhood the only purpose for growing a patch of facial hair in the Middle East? The *Inquirer* asked around some more and it turns out that showing up outside in the Middle East without a beard or a mustache is one way of getting unsolicited and indecent proposals from gay or even "straight" Arabs.

"In my experience, in Saudi, if you don't wear a mustache," says Freddie Gutierrez, a retired male nurse who worked in Saudi Arabia for seven years from 1986 to 1993, "people will think that you're queer and worse, you'll get propositioned by gay Arabs. You're not a real man if you don't grow a mustache. The Arabs will actually have this notion that most likely you are open to homosexual encounters."

"When I first went to Saudi in 1986, I didn't grow my mustache yet. During my



BOYS WILL BE BOYS: Jun Sevilla, Freddie Gutierrez and Alex Ledesma sport a mustache that not only complements their men, but also keep them out of harm's way.

first day in the jail ward of Abha General Hospital, the Arabs there thought I was gay. I got teased because I didn't have facial hair," he adds.

"It gets worse if you are fair-skinned," shares Jayson Santos.

Mistaken for a gay

One day, while walking on his way to a basketball court in Jeddah with a freshly shaven face, an Arab driving a luxury car stopped beside the sidewalk and motioned Santos to get near him. Curious as to what the guy needed from him, he approached the Arab and got the shock of his life. Without blinking, the guy in the car asked Santos if he was available and if he could take him home.

"I was so surprised and furious at the same time," he recounts. "In my rage, I kicked his car door. He quickly drove away after seeing my reaction."

A former flight attendant in Kuwait says that the "bigotly" phenomenon is not confined in Saudi alone. "It's the same in other Arab countries. Many Arabs are sexually aggressive and it doesn't matter even if you're a guy. A clean shaven face and fair skin make you an unwitting prospect for these guys because you look more feminine."

He adds that getting propositioned by an Arab doesn't mean that that particular Arab is gay all the way. "From what I have seen and heard, Arabs are sexually aggressive and have no qualms about sleeping with men. Maybe it's the high price of prostitutes there or the great amount of trouble that an Arab must go through before marrying. Dowries can be very expensive you know."

Defense vs homos

On the other hand, Rex Regis, a former resident of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for nine years believes that it would be as summing too far to say that OFWs grow their mustaches as a defense mechanism against homosexual advances.

"Reaching na iyon. Kung nag-aapply man (as a defense mechanism), sa certain circumstances lang. Syempre sensational kasi kapag ipopurpose ka ng bading kaya nagegeneralize iyan."

Regis admits that one gets mocked and called gay if one doesn't grow a mustache but he offers another explanation behind the custom.

"Mababa tingin ng mga Arabo sa Pinoy dun kaya ang pag-gaya sa pagpaparubo nila ng bigote ay nakakatarulong din somehow para ma-elevate status nila

kasi nagmamukha silang Arabo. Parang natin na rin kasi sa mga Arabo ang pagpaparubo ng bigote."

Reby Baldoz, another former Saudi resident, provides an additional perspective on the bigote custom with her narration of her elder brother's practice in Yanbu, Saudi Arabia:

Looking like 'Mottawa'

"My elder brother, Matthew, likes to grow his facial hair thick and long like the local Mottawas, Arab leaders known for their ferocity and masculinity. They are recognized through their thick, long facial hair so my brother thinks it would be cool and 'macho' if he looks like a Mottawa."

Dr. FPA Demeterio III, professor of philosophy and Philippine studies in San Beda College, believes that mustache growing in the Middle East has developed into a norm not only for Arabs, but for OFWs as well.

"Everybody is encouraged to engage in the practice of growing facial hair and there are sanctions for not conforming. Pinoys who don't grow mustaches are teased. Mockery is one form of punishment for not conforming," he says.

This norm, like most norms, has a functional characteristic if you take a

closer look at the explanations of its origin provided by OFWs, he adds.

"Let's take for example, the defense mechanism against homosexuals-explanation. The norm of growing a mustache for male OFWs serves as a protection, a device to ward off sexual assault from homosexuals."

"On the other hand, the explanation that shows Filipinos emulating Arab customs and fashion to achieve equal status with the 'superior' Arabs may also be interpreted in a power relations perspective. When two groups coexist in one society and one of the groups is more powerful, the weaker group tends to imitate the practices of the stronger group," he adds.

The steady growth of OFWs working in the Middle East throughout the years has also contributed to the local recognition of this mustache-growing tradition.

"Whenever I see a Pinoy wearing thick whiskers, I quickly have this impression that the guy is from Saudi or some country in the Middle East," says Lee De Vera.

"My impression is reinforced if he is dark-skinned and wears tons of bling blings," he adds.

Pugad Baboy

Even Pugad Baboy's Kules, Dagul Sungcal's OFW son in the comic strip is not an exception to the "Mr. Suave" image. "Asked if Kules wouldn't be Kules without the mustache, Poi Medina Jr., creator of Pugad Baboy and a former Saudi OFW as well, gave a positive reply.

"Dapat puro work denuns ang suot. Hindi puwede hyong metrosexual ang dating kung hindi e babakain ka ng mga Arabo."

For Jake Frias, a local traffic enforcer and who by no means has ever stepped on the sandy lands of Arabia, the rising image of the mustached OFW can never be truer. With his thick bigote and dark skin, he always manages to fool people into believing that he's an OFW.

"Whenever I go to nightclubs or bars," he says, "my friends would always tell the people there that I am a vacationing OFW from Iraq. The waiters and the girls would suddenly become nicer and more attentive thinking that I'm there to show them money on them." With reports from Freddie Lee Anne M. Gutierrez

Bitter election fight over leftist splits Mexico

MEXICO CITY—THE FIGHT OVER MEXICO's contested presidential election is widening a deep political divide and turning nasty with the leftist candidate demonized by foes as a ranting class warrior but hailed in the streets by huge crowds of followers.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, a fiery left-winger who narrowly lost the July 2 presidential election, says the vote was rigged against him and he is demanding Mexico's highest electoral court reverse the result.

A former welfare officer for Indians in the southern state of Tabasco, Lopez Obrador announced to thousands of supporters at a march last weekend he would launch a campaign of peaceful civil resistance to pressure the court.

"You want civil war?" a full-page advertisement in one newspaper this week screamed at Lopez Obrador. The ad, placed by what appeared to be a private citizen, accused the leftist of treason and seeking "to divide and bleed a people that is united and at peace." A cartoon in

the Reforma newspaper pictured Lopez Obrador as the horror movie doll Chucky wearing a Nazi swastika armband and wielding an ax.

On the other side, posters portraying conservative Felipe Calderon as a Nazi are showing up in Mexico City's subway and a group of people harassed him as he left a meeting with trade union leaders earlier this week.

The election split Mexico between left and right, giving Calderon a victory of some 240,000 votes, or 0.6 percentage

point, over Lopez Obrador.

The leftist, 52, challenged Calderon on Friday to accept a vote-for-vote recount of ballots and promised to keep up massive street protests if the court did not call a recount.

"If they violate citizens' rights, if there is a setback to democracy, are we going to sit here with our arms crossed?" he said. "Are we going to put up with a privileged group deciding who is going to be president?"

Two huge street rallies in the past two

weeks in favor of Lopez Obrador have been peaceful but leftists hurled insults at Calderon and banged on his car on Tuesday in the first sign protests could turn ugly.

Lopez Obrador refused to condemn the incident, although he has frequently urged supporters to be peaceful.

The son of financially struggling shopkeepers, he has long harbored a sense of injustice, sharpened in battles against corrupt politics in the 1980s in Tabasco. *Reuters*

Somali Islamists declare jihad vs Ethiopia

MOGADISHU—SOMALIA'S POWERFUL Islamic council on Friday vowed a "holy war" against neighboring Ethiopia, which has moved troops into its lawless neighboring state to protect its weak transitional government from a feared Islamist advance.

And as hundreds of people demonstrated in the capital in support of the Islamists, hardline Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys said Somalia will not condone further incursions from Ethiopia.

"The Somali people have to fight against Ethiopia, this is a holy war in which we are defending our country," Aweys said on a nationwide local radio, speaking from his native Gaigudud region in central Somalia.

"The Ethiopians have invaded our country and we must force them out of the country and this will be a holy war of Jihad," added Aweys, who is the supreme leader of Supreme Islamic Council of Somalia (SICS).

Aweys is a hardline cleric designated a terrorist by the United States for suspected links to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network.

The Islamists, who have taken control of the capital Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia, have demanded the immediate withdrawal of Ethiopians who according to eyewitnesses sent more military vehicles into Baidoa, the seat of the transitional government, overnight.

"The Somali people are ready to defend themselves from the acts of aggression by Ethiopia," said Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, chair of the executive committee of the SICS. *AFP*



RIGORS OF CHILDHOOD

Tase Waldtillig, (top) just had to taste the sand at D River Beach while visiting the Oregon Coast July 21. At left, an unidentified South Africa boy, with his face caked in white lime clay, eats rice during his initiation to manhood. During the process he will leave his family home to fend for himself with fellow initiates at which time they are circumcised and face the elements of nature. The blankets are used to ward off the cold as they huddle around wood fires for warmth.

Europe heat wave kills 31, melts roads

PARIS—EUROPEANS WERE BEING urged to stay cool Friday as a record-breaking heatwave that has melted roads, jammed nerves and killed 31 people across half the continent looked set to last another week.

In France, medical authorities said 22 people have now died from the heat—up from nine two days ago. They include a child of 15 months, four laborers and two homeless people.

The updated count brought to 31 the number of people who are believed to have died since the start of the week in western Europe, including two new victims reported in Spain.

The Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) said there was a rise of 168 in the

number of deaths in the first week of July above the average—which it said was linked to the heatwave.

"This does not mean that these people were killed by the heat. But if someone has a particular cardiovascular or breathing problem, then heat can be a trigger," said CBS researcher Carl Harmsen.

French forecasters placed the eastern half of the country on "orange" alert—the second highest level—warning of more peaks at the weekend. Temperatures were expected to reach 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Rhone valley.

The state-run Météo-France weather center advised the public to keep windows and shutters closed during the day and allow air indoors only at night. Peo-

ple should shower frequently, drink 1.5 liters of water a day and spend three hours a day in an air-conditioned environment like a cinema, it said.

With concern growing that there could be a repeat of the deadly 2003 heatwave that killed 15,000 in France and more than twice as many across Europe, a government committee was appointed to meet every Thursday and hear the latest from the health and social services.

Temperatures in Britain came off the boil Friday but were still hot, with London enjoying a steamy 32°C.

The mercury was slightly down from Wednesday—which saw the hottest July day on record—but weather forecasters predicted another heatwave next week. *AFP*

Mahathir taunts PM, vows to go on fighting him

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—FORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad vowed Saturday to carry on a fight against the government he calls incompetent and gutless, and accused his successor of running scared.

Mahathir, 81, returned Saturday from a European vacation to a welcome more befitting an opposition leader than a retired statesman. After he alighted from a private jet, some 600 supporters greeted him with slogans and banners that read "Mahathir, Save Malaysia" and "Mahathir Restore Our Country's Pride."

Many in the crowd, which included former Cabinet appointees and ruling United Malays National Organization party members, wore T-shirts with his picture on the front.

Addressing the crowd, Mahathir said he didn't expect such a reception. He said now that he has rested for 20 days he will continue his fight against Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the man he had hand-picked to lead Malaysia.

"That man is afraid of me," he said. "What is he afraid of? If you think what you did is right, then why are you afraid?" he told his cheering supporters.

Mahathir, who retired in 2003 after 22 years in office as Malaysia's longest-serving leader, has launched blistering verbal attacks on Abdullah in recent weeks, accusing him of mishandling the economy and national interests. Analysts say he is upset his successor appears to have tarnished his legacy.

"Already the country is not doing well. Already we have lost respect, especially among the developing world," said Mahathir, standing on the back seat of a four-wheel drive vehicle, his head sticking out through the sunroof, outside Subang airport terminal used for chartered and special flights.

Mahathir's chief annoyances include Abdullah's decision to forsake several large projects that he started or proposed, including a bridge between Malaysia and Singapore. *AP*



AP MAHATHIR.

Woman draws 40 years in Brazil slay case

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—A WEALTHY young woman, her lover and his brother were found guilty and sentenced to nearly 40 years in prison each early Saturday in the brutal killing of her parents—a crime that fascinated Brazil with a tale of love across rigid class lines.

A jury of four men and three women convicted Suzanne von Richthofen, her former lover Daniel Cravinhos and his brother Christian in the killing of Manfred and Marisa von Richthofen as they slept at home in a wealthy district of Sao Paulo on Oct. 30, 2002.

Judge Alberto Anderson Filho sentenced Suzanne and Daniel to 39 years and six months each in prison. Christian was sentenced to 38 years and six months because the judge considered he

played a slightly smaller role in the killing, according to Chief Prosecutor Roberto Tardelli.

Defense lawyers were expected to appeal.

Prosecutors had asked for a sentence of 50 years in prison for each suspect. A new trial would have been automatically scheduled if the sentences reached 40 years for each.

Under Brazilian law no one can serve more than 30 years in prison regardless of the sentencing.

The brothers have confessed they beat the couple to death, and Tardelli said Suzanne was the "mastermind" of the crime, which he said was committed out of greed because they wanted the Richthofens' estate.

Manfred von Richthofen, 49, was an

engineer and the great nephew of the World War I German ace known as the Red Baron, and his wife was a psychologist. The couple, with assets calculated at 2 million reais (\$920,000, euro730,000), disapproved of their daughter's relationship with Cravinhos, who is from a lower-middle-class family.

"The three, acting in cold-blooded fashion, plotted and carried out the murder of the von Richthofen couple out of greed," Tardelli told the jury on Friday. "It was the most atrocious and cruellest crime I have ever seen in my 25 years as a prosecutor."

Tardelli said Suzanne was driven by a desire to "get her hands on the money and assets her parents had worked so hard to obtain." *AP*

3 arrested in Bombay train bombings

BOMBAY, INDIA—INDIAN POLICE investigating the Bombay train bombings have made their first arrests, picking up three men who officers said were linked to terror networks across South Asia.

India, meanwhile, dismissed Pakistan's offer to help investigate the attacks, claiming it had previously failed to act when presented with evidence of terror networks on its soil. India has suspended ongoing peace talks with its neighbor and rival, after alleging there were Pakistani links to the bombings. Islamabad in turn promised action if evidence was offered.

All three suspects were picked up Thursday, and "we have definite evi-

dence that these people are linked to terrorist activities," one of the lead investigators, K.R. Raghuvanshi, told reporters Friday. "They have connections with groups in Nepal and Bangladesh, which are directly or indirectly connected to Pakistan."

Pressed for details, Raghuvanshi would only say, "We will place the evidence before the court."

But he said more arrests were expected soon, noting that the plotting for the bombing of seven trains, which killed 207 people and wounded more than 800, was "a big conspiracy."

He identified the men as Khaseel Aziz Sheikh, Kamal Ahmed Ansari and Mum-

taz Ahmed Chowdhury, correcting names given in earlier police reports. The first two were arrested in the eastern state of Bihar and the third was seized in Bombay. None has yet been charged.

Wearing black hoods over their heads, the three were taken Friday to a court in Bombay. There, a judge ordered the three—their hoods taken off inside the courtroom—held in custody for 10 days.

New reports said Saturday that police in Bihar also had detained a teacher at an Islamic seminary, Mohammed Akram, 35, was detained because his face resembled one of the two sketches of suspects released by railway police earlier this week. The Indian Express newspaper said. *AP*



Adolf Hitler, center, poses with architect Albert Speer, left, and sculptor Arno Breker in Paris in a June 23, 1940 photo. Works by sculptor Breker, favored by the Nazis, went on display Friday amid controversy over his links to Hitler. *AP*

The WORLD

Incursions, not invasion

Israel says it won't invade Lebanon for the moment

ISRAEL WILL PURSUE ITS WAR ON Hezbollah with more military incursions into south Lebanon, but will not unleash a full-scale invasion for the moment, an Israeli army spokesperson said on Saturday. Thousands of Lebanese civilians have fled north fearing Israel will invade and expand an 11-day-old bombardment of Lebanon which has killed 345 people, mostly civilians.

Resisting international pressure for a

ceasefire, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said before a trip to the region that the conflict's root causes—in her view Hezbollah's armed presence on Israel's border and the role of its allies, Syria and Iran—had to be tackled first.

An army spokesperson said Israeli forces were making only limited thrusts a few kilometers into south Lebanon.

"It will probably widen, but we are still looking at limited operations," he

said. "We're not talking about massive forces going inside at this point." Israel has been building up its forces at the border and has called up 3,000 reserves. Defense Minister Amir Peretz has talked of a possible land offensive to halt rocket attacks that have killed 15 Israeli civilians in the past 11 days.

But Israel is wary of mounting another invasion, only six years after it ended a costly 22-year occupation of the south.

It has already lost 19 soldiers dead in the latest conflict.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said an Israeli ground invasion would mark a "very serious escalation" of the conflict.

"If they stay and intend to establish what they have called, in the past, a security zone—it will be a security zone for them, but for the others will be occupation and that will intensify the resistance," Annan told CNN.



A DOLL lies amid rubble in one of Beirut's bombed suburbs, a stronghold of the militant group Hezbollah, July 21.

The army said it attacked more than 150 targets in the last 24 hours, hitting Hezbollah guerrilla positions, communications sites and 12 roads linking Lebanon with Syria.

Witnesses said Israeli warplanes also launched one of their heaviest raids yet on the town of al-Kham, just north of the border, and destroyed five trucks in strikes in eastern Lebanon.

The war started when Hezbollah captured two soldiers and killed eight in a July 12 raid into Israel, which had already launched an offensive in the Gaza Strip to try to recover another soldier seized by Palestinian militants on June 25.

Calling Hezbollah's action an "outrageous provocation," Rice said on Friday she would visit the Middle East early next week in search of a durable peace deal.

"What I won't do is... try to get a ceasefire that I know isn't going to last," she said.

Washington supported proposals for an expanded international force on the Israel-Lebanon border but details were not fixed, a senior US official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. A 2,000-strong UN force monitors the border at present.

Israel's military chief, Lieutenant-General Dan Halutz, said nearly 100 Hezbollah fighters had been killed in the offensive, far more than the half-dozen deaths announced by the group.

The United States is rushing precision-guided bombs to Israel, which requested the expedited shipment last week after its air campaign in Lebanon began, The New York Times reported.

Lebanese families packed into cars and pickup trucks and clogged roads to the north after Israeli planes dropped leaflets on Friday warning residents of south Lebanon to flee for safety beyond the Litani river, about 20 kilometers from the border.

Amid growing concern about the plight of civilians in Lebanon, Israel said it would ease humanitarian access.

UN relief agencies have called for safe passage to take food and medical supplies to tens of thousands who have fled their homes. Lebanese government and UN estimates put the number of displaced at 500,000.

Foreigners have also flooded out of the country. Ships and aircraft worked through the night scooping more tired and scared people from Lebanon and bringing them to Cyprus and Turkey.

Reuters

US speeding up precision-bombs delivery to Israel

WASHINGTON—THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION is rushing a delivery of precision-guided bombs to Israel, which requested the expedited shipment last week after beginning its air campaign against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, American officials said Friday.

The decision to quickly ship the weapons to Israel was made with relatively little debate within the Bush administration, the officials said. Its disclosure threatens to anger Arab governments and others because of the appearance that the United States is actively aiding the Israeli bombing campaign in a way that could be compared to Iran's efforts to arm and resupply Hezbollah.

The munitions that the United States is sending to Israel are part of a multimillion dollar arms sale package approved last year that Israel is able to draw on as needed, the officials said. But Israel's request for expedited delivery of the satellite and laser-guided bombs was described as unusual by some military officers, and as an indication that Israel had a long list of targets in Lebanon still to strike.

The new American arms shipment to Israel has not been announced publicly, and the officials who described the administration's decision to rush the munitions to Israel would discuss it only after being promised anonymity. The officials included employees of two government agencies, and one described the shipment as just one example of a broad array of armaments that the United States has long provided Israel.

NYT



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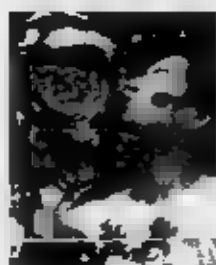
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Sunday SPORTS

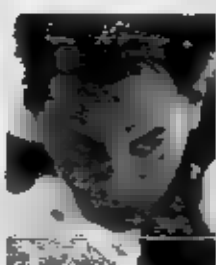
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WHY? 'N' HOW?
Sweep of Saudi pushes RP Davis Cupps to Group II /A24



All-Filipino double next target for Purefoods /A25



Bata, Django, 11 other RP cue masters open IPT bids/A26



Race boils down to last time trial /A27

Bulldogs compound Tams' woes

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A NEW WHIPPING BOY IN this year's UAAP basketball tournament.

National University took advantage of Far Eastern's collapse in the fourth period yesterday to score a 73-64 shocker that left the defending champion Tamaraws as the only winless team in the young varsity season.

And the Bulldogs, cellar dwellers in the last five seasons, pulled off the stunner even with three key players—Edwin Asoro, Jonathan Fernandez and Howard Flor—suffering from sprains.

"We were positive coming into this game," said Manny Dandan, the mentor who steered NU to its last Final Four stint in 2001. "But it was hard to convince them that they can still play hurt. I just told them to give all that they have."

Asoro powered the Bulldogs to their first win in three games with a game-high 20 points and 14 rebounds.

Fernandez, who drained all of his 16 markers in the second half, teamed up with Asoro in a 17-2 blast that stretched NU's lead to 67-52 midway in the fourth quarter.

The Tamaraws slumped to an unexpected third straight defeat.

The Bulldogs also got huge support in the final canno from center Joseph Lingao-Lingao, who finished with nine points and nine boards.

Everything looked quite good for the Tamaraws at the half until the Bulldogs

rediscovered their range in the third quarter.

The Bulldogs, who last won over FEU on Aug. 23, 1998, outscored the Tamaraws, 15-5, in the third period to move within a point, 43-44, from a 28-39 deficit.

Another spurt had the Bulldogs shooting away for good, 69-58, with only three minutes remaining.

The Tamaraws' shooting percentage dipped to 37.5 percent in the fourth quarter.

Jonathan Jahnke started strong, firing nine of his 11 points from beyond the arc to lift the Bulldogs to a 13-11 lead midway in the first period.

The Bulldogs continued their impressive showing before the Tamaraws surged ahead with an 11-0 tear behind Benedict Fernandez to wrest the lead at 20-29. Francis Barcelano sustained the Tamaraws' charge as FEU led by as many as 11 points.

Earlier, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets and the FEU Baby Tamaraws grabbed a piece of top spot after routing their respective foes in junior play.

Mark Lopez and Socrates Rivera combined for 42 points to lead the Baby Tamaraws to a 106-80 romp against the UST Tiger Cubs for their third straight win.

Banking on Raymond Austria's 23-point performance, the Eaglets kept

their pristine slate after overwhelming the UE Pages, 87-64.

The UP Junior Maroons cruised to their second win in three games with a convincing 90-79 beating of the NU Bulpups.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UP 90—Buenaventura 18, Tolentino 17, Bautista 14, Sanchez 11, Isip 9, Espiritu 9, Merata 6, Merloles 2, Jimenez 2, Gamad 2, Moreno 0, Lazo 0, Cruz 0.

NU 78—Barry 15, Jimenez 14, Terso 13, K. Balao 13, P. Balao 12, Mahalec 12, Guzman 0.

Quarters: 21-23, 42-44, 67-69, 90-79.

Second Game (Jrs)

FEU 108—Lopez 22, Rivera 20, Banal 16, Rosales 15, Knutzel 11, Paulino 7, Maloles 4, Gadia 3, Paguia 3, Argamino 2, Edding 2, Rocha 1.

UST 88—Reyes 18, Cunanan 18, Sarsonas 14, Buendia 8, Barquido 7, Ledesma 6, Aquino 4, Perez 2, Laconico 2.

Quarters: 25-19, 48-35, 76-61, 106-80.

Third Game (Jrs)

ATENEJO 67—Austria 23, Gamboa 14, Barmacade 12, Gonzaga 10, Tingson 9, Golla 5, Dumrigo 3, Valera 2, Enriquez 2, Rivera 1, Apontadera 1, Gamboa 0, Esquivel 0.

UE 64—Villagas 21, Duran 13, Del Rosario 13, Bergonia 8, Nicolas 4, Monce 3, Cristostomo 2, Amonon 0, Santos 0, Runez 0, Caparas 0, Chuao 0.

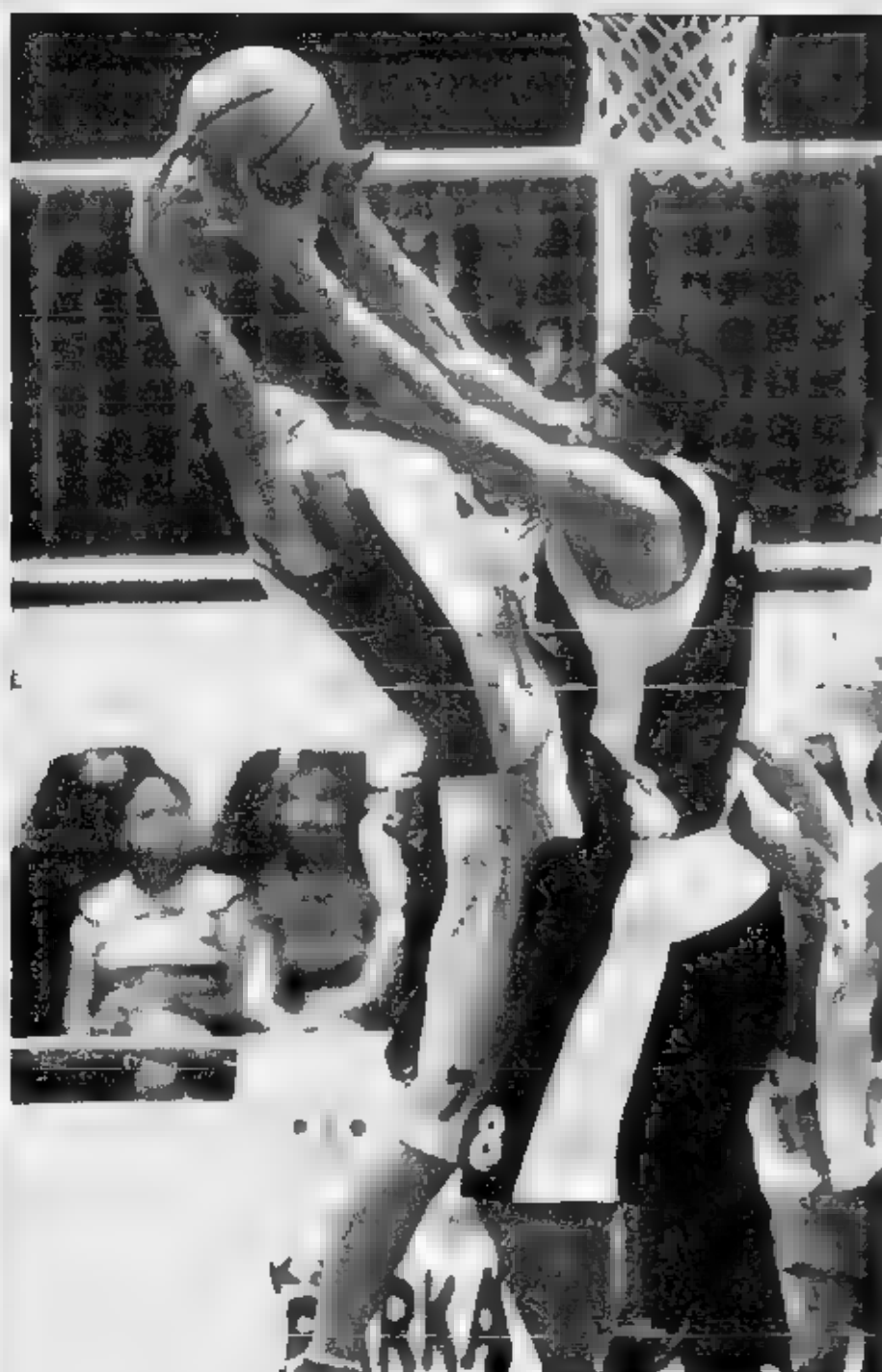
Quarters: 31-15, 56-33, 81-41, 87-64.

Fourth Game (Jrs)

NU 78—Asoro 20, Fernandez 16, Jahnke 11, Lingao-Lingao 9, Calamora 5, Salvado 4, Malcontento 4, Flor 4, Malaguano 0, Dela Cruz 0.

FEU 64—Chan 14, Fernandez 11, Vilanueva 10, Gerilla 8, Barcelano 6, Baracael 5, Adollo 5, Alable 4, Reyes 1, Vinluan 0, Gorzales 0, Je Villanueva 0, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 18-18, 26-37, 48-50, 73-64.



NATIONAL University's Edwin Asoro grabs a rebound off Far Eastern University's Benedict Fernandez (left) in yesterday's game.

Chot's RP five to play in Qatar

By June Navarro

FAILING TO CREATE AN IMPACT in the Jones Cup, the PBA-backed national team will try to bounce back in a tournament featuring tamer squads.

National coach Chot Reyes has confirmed the country's participation in the Qatar Invitational, a four-nation tournament from Aug. 1-5 where the Philippines will be pitted against the national teams of Angola, Latvia and Qatar.

"It's a completely different look from Asian basketball," said Reyes.

"In this tournament, height really matters so we're bringing in a team with a good ceiling."

San Miguel's Dorian Peña, B Jy Mamaril of Coca-Cola, Red Bull's Mick Pennisi and Kerby Raymundo and Marc Pingris of Purefoods have already agreed to form part of the National's frontline.

Larry Fonacier of Red Bull, Willie Miller of Talk 'N Text, Coca-Cola's Dennis Miranda will be taking care of the backcourt together with amateurs LA Tenorio of Ateneo and Arwind Santos of FEU.

Reyes said he's trying to get the approval of the Ateneo management before including Ronald Tubid and Niño Canalela in the lineup.



REYES

"Angola and Qatar are big teams which could test our resiliency in the shaded area while we will be introduced into the European style of play against Latvia," said Reyes.

He pointed out that Qatar, which has an American coach, has built a world-caliber squad similar to the US national team. Composed of naturalized citizens, the Qatar national team is powered by two seven-footers

and has a height average of 6-foot-5.

"Qatar really has the size but they encounter problems with Asian teams because of speed," said Reyes. Chinese Taipei used its shooting and speed to defeat Qatar twice in the Jones Cup.

The Philippines placed sixth in the Jones Cup while Athletes in Action, a team made up of US NCAA stalwarts who had played a series of tuneup games at the Ynares Center, captured the crown after beating host Taipei.

Chinese Taipei was powered by Chen Shih-an, a 6-foot-5 shooting guard who saw action in the NBA summer league for the Sacramento Kings and the American Basketball Association for the Orange County Crush squad.

"It's the experience of playing those teams that really mattered," said Reyes. "Every time we play stronger teams from other countries, it teaches something about ourselves."

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Sweep of Saudi pushes RP Davis Cuppers to Group II

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES PUT ITSELF in position to jump out of Davis Cup ignominy.

Sustaining the same deadly form they had all week, the Filipino netters drubbed Saudi Arabia yesterday, 3-0, for their fourth straight shutout victory and a slot in Group II of the Asia Oceania region at the Manila Polo Club.

Fil-American stars Erik Taino and Cecil Mamit again led the charge by turning back their singles foes before homegrown talents PJ Tiarro and Johnny Arcilla made quick work of their doubles assignment that formally got the Philippines out of Group III in overwhelming fashion.

The Philippines, after victories over Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia, rendered its clash with Iran today no-bearing.

"It's nice playing in the country where people are rooting for you," said Mamit, the 2005 Southeast Asian games singles champion. "All in all, the team played very well and the crowd support is certainly a big help."

Mamit, a veteran of Grand Slam events like the US Open and Wimbledon, showed too much class in a 6-0, 6-0 crushing of Saleh Al-Rajeh: a few minutes after Taino came back from a first set loss to rip Fahed Al-Saad, 1-6, 6-0, 6-3.

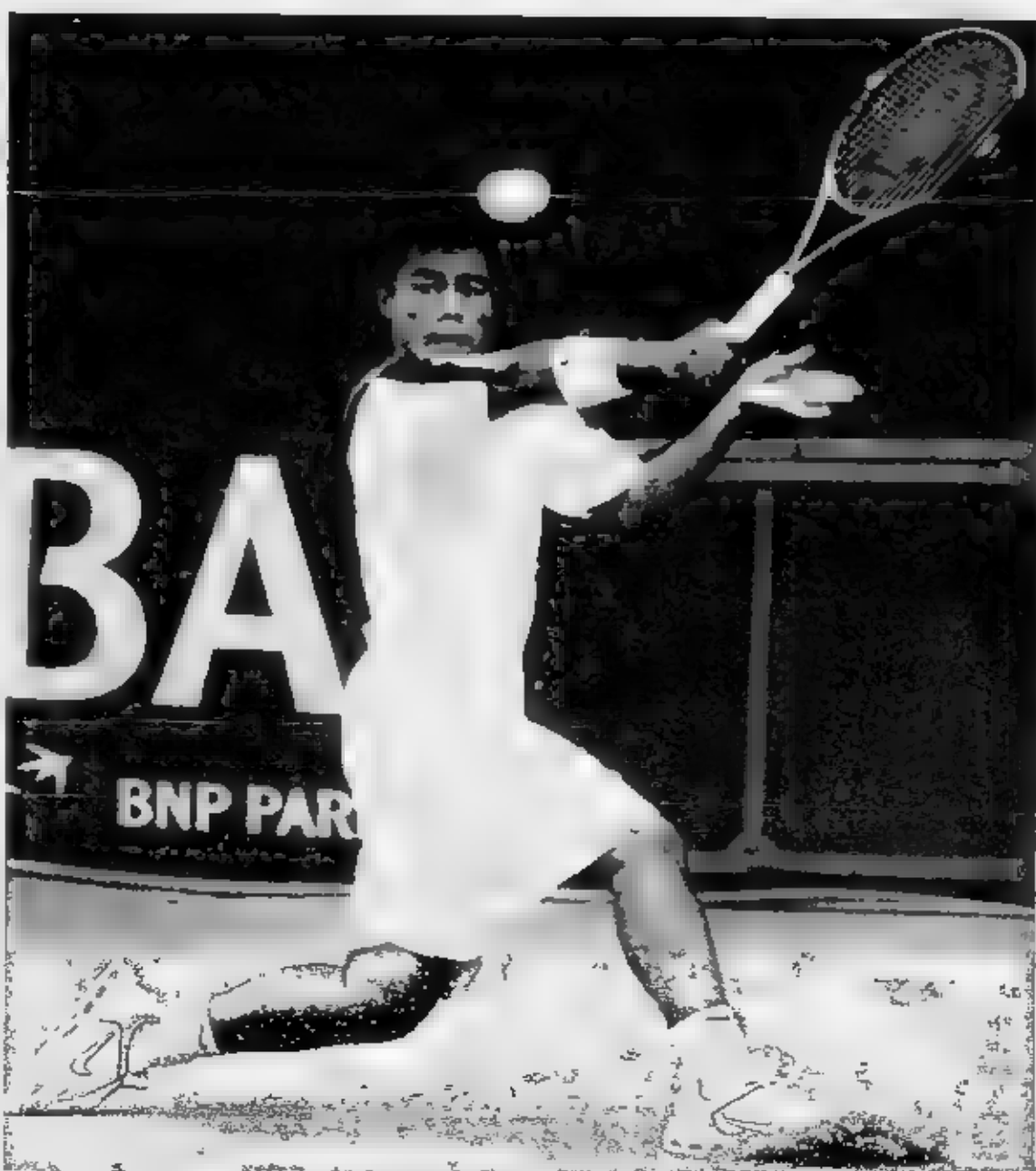
"I got off quite scared playing behind, but once I gained control things went better," said the 30-year-old Taino, whose first set loss silenced the big weekend crowd at this posh venue.

Taino then buckled down to work in the second set, breaking the Saudi for the first point and showing dominant form the rest of the way.

Arcilla and Tiarro then ripped the Bader Al-Mugai, and Al-Saad tandem, 6-2, 6-2, in the doubles.

With Arcilla taking care of matters in the net and the power-hitting Tiarro firing from the baseline, the Filipinos made it a field day for the hosts in just 45 minutes.

"We don't belong in Group III, we just had a bad draw last year and slid here," said national head coach Martin Misa after the win.



FILIPINO ace Cecil Mamit returns a shot to Saudi Arabia's Saleh Al-Rajeh. Mamit won, 6-0, 6-0.

Sevillano cops SCCF crown in California

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER ENRIQUE "KONG" SEVILLANO topped the 2006 SCCF State Championships recently in Los Angeles, California, USA.

The California based Sevillano, who hails from Cebu City and is a protégé of local chess patron NM Bombi Aznar, beat Japanese-American Christian Tanaka in 26 moves of a Caro-Kann Defense in his last match to win the title in the seven-man single round-robin format.

Sevillano scored 5.5 points on account of four wins (one point came from a bye) and three draws, the same output of Armenian-American IM Andranik Matikozyan. After the tie break was applied, Sevillano tallied 16.25 to edge Matikozyan (15.5) for the title.

Sevillano also beat Francis Chen in round 1 after 40 moves of a Caro-Kann defense and IM Jack Peters in round 3 after 59 moves of a French Defense.

He drew with IM Cyrus Lakdawala, IM Matikozyan and Eugene Yanayt. NM Marion Bernardino.

Pichay chess draws top three GMs

CRACK LOCAL PLAYERS, LURED BY THE BIG pot money, have signified their intention to join the 3rd Prospero Pichay Sr. Memorial Chess Tournament slated Aug. 12-14 in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur.

Grandmasters Marc Paragua, Joey Antonio and Eugene Torre and streaking International Master Oliver Dumakling are expected to figure prominently in the chase for prizes totaling P300,000, with the champion taking home P100,000.

The 26-year-old Dumakling has posted back-to-back victories in the Olympic Festival and Ozamiz Open, respectively, and seems to be one of the favorites.

Other likely contenders are two-time National Open titlist Darwin Laylo, Grandmaster Nelson Marano, young Fide Master Wesley So and FM Vince Alaan, who ruled the first two editions of the event honoring the late father of National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Burch" Pichay.

The organizing Friends of Pichay decided to increase the tournament purse from the original P100,000 in order to attract a stronger field and enable budding Mindanao woodpushers to earn FIDE (international chess federation) rating points.

Representative Pichay has made arrangements with the FIDE to give event participants the corresponding Elo rating based on their performances.

Prizes, on the other hand, will be distributed among the top 20 finishers, with the second placer getting P50,000 and the third placer receiving P25,000.

The nine-round Swiss system event is part of the festivities for the town fiesta of Cantilan on Aug. 15.

According to National Master Cesar Caturia, who has been designated as tournament director, registration fee is P150.

For details, call Caturia at 0928-7132397.



PARAGUA



PICHAY

Busy year up for Tatap standouts

TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (Tatap) president Victor Valbuena wants maximum exposure for the country's paddle wielders.

"Our players need to play competitively. Practice alone will not make them better players," said Valbuena, one of the guests in Friday's Scoop sa Kamayan.

With that in mind, Valbuena has sought the help of businessman Alvin Carranza, GTC Sports director Robbie Pangilinan and TEAM Nueva Ecija's Edward Joson.

Carranza is one of the regular supporters of table tennis tournaments while Pangilinan and Joson are noted event organizers.

"They know the sport (table tennis) and more importantly they know what it takes to stage more tournaments for our players," said Valbuena, who is expected to retain his position when the association holds its elections on Tuesday.

He also wants to open more windows to the players from the grassroots level.

Valbuena also makes it a point to oversee the development of the players in the training pool. "We're trying our best to give the players all they need," said Valbuena. "So we also expect them to give their best."



VALBUENA

B. Penalosa wants Arce after Castillo loses bout

FORMER WORLD BOXING COUNCIL champion Gerry Penalosa is now looking for a new opponent following the loss of Mexican Martin Castillo to Japanese Nobuo Nashiro in their World Boxing Association super flyweight title fight yesterday.

Before yielding his title to Nashiro on a 10th-round technical knockout, Castillo was being groomed to fight Penalosa possibly underneath the

Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales showdown on Nov. 18.

Penalosa now wants to fight the hugely popular Jorge "Travieso" Arce, a stablemate of Erik Morales, who holds a record of 44 wins, 3 losses, 1 draw with 34 knockouts.

Arce holds the WBC interim flyweight title, although he plans to move up in weight for bigger fights.

"I want Arce," said Penalosa when

told yesterday that Castillo had lost. If Arce is not available, the Filipino former champ said he is ready for either WBO superfly champ Fernando Montiel or IBF champ Luis Perez.

The 33-year-old Penalosa is coming off a hard-earned unanimous decision win over Mexican Tomas Rojas last July 2 underneath the Pacquiao-Oscar Larios tiff. Salven L. Lagumbay

CEBU CARD

Suico gets OPBF title crack

FILIPINO RANDY 'KOMONG BATO' Suico is set to bounce back following his disappointing loss to WBA lightweight champ Juan Diaz, as he trains his sights on the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) lightweight title on Oct. 7 against Thailand's Pongpetch Chuwatana in a 12-round bout in Cebu.

This was announced yesterday by Suico's Japanese manager Joe Kozumi, who noted Suico's physical

strength and potential power despite his loss via ninth round stoppage by Diaz.

Suico had held the OPBF superfeatherweight title, but had to relinquish it when he decided to campaign in the bigger lightweight category.

According to trainer Juanito Ablaca, both Kozumi and Japanese impresario Akihiko Honda were impressed by Suico's showing against Diaz, and had promised to give Suico

another fight in the US. Ablaca also noted that after the OPBF fight, Suico might see action in the undercard of the third Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales showdown set on Nov. 18.

The Suico-Pongpetch fight had originally been scheduled earlier in Manila, but had to be scrapped in favor of the July 2 Mano-A-Mano card, where Suico was also pulled out when the chance to fight Diaz came about. Salven L. Lagumbay

Lina, Alvarez joining HK awarding rites

HONG KONG—BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (BAP) president Joey Lina and FedEx/Air21 president Lito Alvarez have been invited to attend the awarding ceremony of the 2006 Eastlight-Super Kung Sheung Cup International invitational basketball championship at the Hong Kong Coliseum today.

Lina and Alvarez will join FIBA (International Basketball Federation) president Carl Men Ky Ching, Hong Kong Basketball Association head Lee Kwan Wah and officials of the other participating countries during the rites scheduled at 5 p.m.

The championship game is set at 3 p.m.

"I'm very happy to be invited to attend the awarding ceremony of the Eastlight-Super Kung Sheung Cup basketball championship," said Lina in a message to the HKBA organizing committee and the RP-Air 21 team, headed by coaches Bo Peralos and Johnny Tam.

Lina and Alvarez also congratulated the RP-Air21 team which reached the crossover, semi-



LINA



ALVAREZ

final round in this tough, eight-nation tournament against host and defending champion Hong Kong at 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Led by team captain Wynne Arboleda and PBA slam dunk champion K.G. Canalela, the BAP-supported RP-Air21 team posted a 2-1 win-loss record in the elimination round.

The Filipinos, who are also being supported by Accel, Federal Tyres and Burlington, beat Singapore and Japan in their first two matches before losing to the Southern Cali-

formia-based Asian-American Sports Club.

Against the American-reinforced AASC, the Filipinos played minus brothers Yancy and Raniel de Ocampo, who rushed back home to Manila following the untimely death of their father early Thursday morning.

Aside from Arboleda and Canalela, the other remaining members of the RP-Air21 team are Mark Telan, Bruce Dacia, Homer Se, Ronald Tuid, Leo Avenido, Stephen Padilla and Ryan Bernardo.

The Filipinos' best finish in the annual tournament was in 2002, when Rommel Adducul (now with Ginebra San Miguel) and Marc Pingris (now with Purefoods Giants) led the Burlington Socks-supported RP team to the crown over Heyuan-China.

The following year, the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier team of coach Aric del Rosario wound up runner-up to Hong Kong. FedEx/Air 21 finished third twice—in 2004 and 2005.



PACQUAO BOOK. Manny Pacquiao browses over a copy of Pacific Storm authored by INQUIRER columnist Rezah Trinidad. The brisk-selling book about the Filipino boxing icon is available at all National Book Store outlets. Various American firms have also expressed interest to obtain copies. EDWIN BACASMAS

SundaySPORTS

A ring, finally, for Jun Limpot

THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS running through Jun Limpot's mind but retirement is certainly not one of them.

"I don't think about it (retirement). That's the hardest thing a player could think of," said Limpot after winning his first ever PBA championship with the Purefoods Giants on his 13th season in the league.

Right now, the most senior citizen on the Purefoods roster is just too overwhelmed with what his team had accomplished and the promise of another championship in the coming season.

"I don't want to brag but I believe I still have what it takes to compete with the younger players. We have a good team and if we stay healthy, we could probably win another (championship)," said the 34-year-old Limpot.

The road to a breakthrough PBA crown wasn't easy for one of the most sought-after amateurs in the '90s.

With two UAAP championship titles with De La Salle University, four Philippine Basketball League crowns with Magnolia and a 1991 SEA Games gold medal, Limpot was naturally looking forward to a

winner's ring in the professional ranks.

Drafted first overall by Sta. Lucia Realty in 1993, Limpot won the rookie of the year award but was traded to Barangay Ginebra at the turn of the millennium with no championship under his belt.

A nephew of the late Surigao Gov. Jose Siring, who was a former president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, Limpot was later shipped to Purefoods in 2004.

Right after his transfer to the Giants, the Gin Kings captured two straight ti-

"There were a lot of doubts all these years but with this championship, I proved them wrong," said the 6-foot-6 Limpot after the Giants ruled the best-of-seven Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup Finals at the expense of Red Bull in six games, 4-2.

Limpot doesn't see the end of the road just yet.

"I'll just focus on my game, follow a personal goal that I want to achieve and stay away from distractions," said Limpot, whose contract with the Giants lasts until July 2007. *June Navarro*



JUN Limpot gives coach Ryan Gregorio a victory ride. *AUGUST DELA CRUZ*



PUREFOODS players and supporters jubilate after the Giants' title-clinching victory over the Red Bull Barakos Friday night. *AUGUST DELA CRUZ*

Purefoods now wants All-Filipino title double

By June Navarro

THE NEXT CHALLENGE IS TO ACCOMPLISH A feat no team has pulled off for more than two decades.

The Purefoods Giants may not be aware of it, but going for back-to-back all-Filipino crowns after capturing the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup Friday night will earn them a revered place in history.

But coach Ryan Gregorio says duplicating what Great Taste had done 21 years ago is not impossible.

"The team has a young core and the veterans are still in shape so I'm pretty sure that we'll be competitive next conference," said Gregorio after his Giants wrapped up the best-of-seven series against Red Bull in Game 6 of the Finals.

Led by the legendary, streak-shooting Ricardo Brown, Great Taste won the all-Filipino conference twice in a row in 1985.

With the 2006-2007 PBA season kicking off with an all-Filipino tournament, the Giants are expected to use their recent conquest as inspiration in the next conference.

Starters Marc Pingris, Kerby Raimundo and season MVP James Yap have already matured while veterans Jun Limpot, Noy Castillo, Rey Evangelista, Richard Yee and Roger Yap are still fit and healthy.

Add the burly Jordan Salvador to the equation and the Giants are sure to be tough contenders in the coming season. Picking ninth overall in the draft on Aug. 20, the Giants will select a big man from the pool, according to Gregorio.

The 6-foot-4 Salvador was sidelined by a knee injury during the Finals of the Fiesta Conference which the Giants lost to the Bulls. Gregorio said Salvador, a solid frontcourt material, would be ready next conference.

"We're really motivated this conference. We have a small lineup compared to other teams and we have no legitimate center," said Gregorio, the youngest coach in the league at 34.

"We overcame that thinking by working on our strengths. I just told them that in every thing you do, give it your best shot because it could be the last," he added.

Unknown to many, Gregorio isn't only blessed with gifted players, the two-time champion coach is also fortunate to have a battery of talented assistant coaches.



SEASON MVP James Yap

Assistant coach Koy Bana, helps Gregorio on defense. Deputy Ronnie Magsanoc usually maps out the offensive play in tight situations while Dayong Mendoza never runs out of fresh inputs scouting the opponent.

"When people said Ryan Gregorio can't do it, I think they're correct because I have to wait for these guys for us to succeed," said Gregorio.

With a discerning coaching staff, the Giants landed on top at the end of the classification round and advanced outright to the best-of-seven semifinals for the second straight conference.

In the semis, the Giants pulled off an upset only they had achieved four seasons ago over the same team. Trailing 1-3 in the series, the Giants swept the next three games and trounced the Alaska Aces to set up a titanic clash with the Bulls.

Gregorio and the Giants won the 2002 Governors Cup also coming from behind after the Aces took a commanding 2-0 lead in the series.

"It's difficult to fight Red Bull because of the so-called Red Bull mentality. There's always this fear of Red Bull coming back in the series because of that mentality," said Gregorio.

"What we did was to counter their mentality with our attitude. If they have the Red Bull mentality, we have the Giants' attitude," he added.

Hard-working Pingris Finals MVP

MARC JEAN PINGRIS WAS STILL WHOOPING it up with his Purefoods teammates and supporters when the Finals MVP was announced.

Pingris stood surprised with his mouth agape for a few seconds before finally acknowledging the biggest individual honor given out in a title series.

Nobody expected last year's third overall pick to win the Finals MVP of the PBA Philippine Cup. Even Pingris himself.

"Nagulat ako (I was shocked)," said the 6-foot-5 Pingris, one of the Purefoods Giants' utility men in the shaded area. "I didn't know what to say except thank you," he added in Filipino.

Why not James Yap, the season MVP? How about Kerby Raimundo, who averaged double-double figures throughout the series? Or Richard Yee, who starred in Games 1 and 2?

The explanation was simple.

In the best-of-seven series won by Purefoods over Red Bull in Game 6, Yap Raimundo and Yee performed as expected.

But Pingris proved the big difference with his hard-nosed defense, terrific rebounding



MARC Pingris: Prayer of thanks. *AUGUST DELA CRUZ*

and clutch shooting.

"I just played my heart out every time I'm on the court," said Pingris, also referred to by courtside kibitzers as the boyfriend of actor Vic Sotto's daughter, Danica, who never missed a Purefoods game in the Finals.

Pingris had decent scoring numbers, but was prolific in rebounding and shot blocks throughout the title series. Averaging 12 rebounds and 3.3 blocks a game, the son of a market vendor from Pangasinan had become Red Bull's biggest stumbling block on the defensive end.

With his high-leaping ability, Villanueva, Junthy Valenzuela and the high-leaping Cyrus Baguio had to alter their shots whenever Pingris goes airborne.

Drafted by the Air21 Express in 2004, Pingris was shipped to the Giants before the season began along with playmaker Egay Billones.

It turned out to be a blessing in disguise as Pingris, getting more playing time under coach Ryan Gregorio, became one of the most fearsome rebounders and shot-blockers in the league. *June Navarro*

Coach E produces top cagers

GAMES TOMORROW (UM Gym)
9 a.m.—NEU vs JMAK (Jrs)
10:30 a.m.—SL Clare vs AMACU (Jrs)
12 nn—UM vs Better Children (Jrs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JUNJUN PEREZ HIT A LAYUP AT THE buzzer to lift STI to a 60-58 upset of five-time defending champion University of Manila yesterday at the start of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The 5-foot-9 guard's game-clinching shot came after the Hawks' Pol Santiago hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 58 with just 10 seconds remaining.

The Hawks established a dynasty five years ago and suffered their second loss in that span. St. Clare snapped an 82-game run by UM last year. Perez scored with 13 points while Dexter Micutuan added 11 for STI, which finished second to the Hawks last year.

Venancio Galindez and Roy David combined for 29 points as Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay edged last year's third-placer Centro Escolar University, 77-72, in the second game.

The league opened with a ceremony yesterday with Nacso president Dr. Ernest Jay Adalern promising an exciting, unpredictable tourney.

First Game

STI 68—Panes 13, Micutuan 11, Cabangon 10, Porto 7, Macalima 5, Juratas 4, Mahayo 4, San Luis 2, Rosales 2, Delano 2, Lumar 0, Lagaspi 0.

UM 58—Napiza 17, Gols 13, Santiago 11, Mallico 11, Delostinos 3, Bucalan 2, Advincula 1, Bonito 0, Estacio 0, Facun 0, Ocampo 0.

Quarters: 14-10, 29-25, 41-41, 60-58.

Second Game

PLP 77—Galindez 15, David 14, Teyar 10, Casula 8, Carino 7, Anticualdo 7, Pascual 4, Soriano 3, Go-Bon 3.

CEU 72—Macalima 15, Carrascho 12, Gatula 11, Oyang 11, Manjero 8, Magno 7, Castillo 5, Franco 2, Salamat 0, Lalota 0, Villamayor 0.

Quarters: 21-19, 38-43, 52-65, 77-72.

Viloria in top shape against Mexican Romero

By Hermie Rivera

BOXING HAS LONG BEEN ONE OF our most popular sports although it is universally agreed that other forms of athletics, notably basketball, have intruded upon its popularity.

However, the inevitable rise to fame of the hottest ticket named Manny Pacquiao has consigned all other sports to the back burner for now.

But while our boxers have achieved world acclaim in winning championships in many weight divisions, examination of the records reveal that all the laudatory notices have been confined to the professionals.

Those who practice the sport as 'si-mon pures' have never ascended to the top platform at the awards ceremonies to claim an Olympic gold medal.

Such an abysmal showing by our amateur fighters has inversely rankled the boxing purists.

But these disgruntled followers of amateur boxing in tandem with the loyalists in the pro ranks could be mollified as the highly touted Sydney Olympian, Brian Viloria defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight crown against Omar Nino Romero on Aug. 10 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Viloria is in terrific form according to his consummate manager Gary Git

desohn, adding that Omar could put up a credible challenge due chiefly to a first round KO victory he inflicted on the celebrated Jorge Arce—the reigning WBC flyweight boss no less.

Experts expect Romero to be at his very best for Brian (anyone fighting the speedy Ilcano has to step up else he becomes dead meat, 'ah ha?')

Brian, who is fondly called the Filipino Punch, now lives and trains in Los Angeles after moving from Honolulu. He traces his roots in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, where he stayed with a doting grandpa before migrating to the United States where he finished a course in journalism (broadcast communications major) at a Michigan college.

He is doing exceptionally well do-

ing his thing at the Wild Card gym of his verbose coach—Freddie Roach.

Speaking of Pacquiao's trainer extraordinary, Roach has been tight-upped after getting a mouthful from Morales.

He was awfully quiet after Erik lashed back for calling him a nasty loudmouth. One of the rare instances the "Hollywood Lip" shut his trap. Nothing Morales loves doing now save to seal Freddie's lips.

But that's another fight, right?

Meanwhile, Pacquiao and Morales gear up for their overwhelmingly destructive finale this November at Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center—a fitting climax to their legendary rivalry.

But it's quite a distance yet for their

MANY BUDDING PLAYERS HAVE BENEFITED from the Coach E Basketball School's personalized and scientific approach, enabling them to make it to the country's leading varsity teams.

International Basketball Association (IBA) president Xavy Nunag said the school founded in 2004 by Philippine Basketball Association champion coach Eric Almarano always stood firm on its mission to produce fundamentally sound basketball players.

"There are many basketball players in the country and the interest in the game has never waned," said Nunag. "We'd like to think that we are giving students a deeper understanding of the game that would help them in advancing in their careers."

The school pursues this objective anew as this term will officially start with the San Beda Alabang classes opening July 25. There will also be complete 16-sessions at the Zone in Makati (July 26), clubsixty in Libis (July 28) and Xavier School (July 31).

Call 631-1195 (Myline), from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Inquiries are welcome at iba_phi@yahoo.com and www.ibaphil.net.

Coach E products include La Salle cagers Joshua Santos, Paolo Monasterio, Joe Guiao, Michael Concepcion and Justin Tan, along with Ateneo players Marc Gamboa, Robi Andres, Miguel Nittorenda and Kieffer Ravena.

They also had San Beda's LA Revilla and Tommy Babilonia and Xavier's Jasper Pua in the list of products of the school backed by Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Burlington, Ace and Brothers Burger.

San Beda-Alabang classes are set every Tuesday (5:30-7:30 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m.-noon) while regular classes at clubsixty on July 28 are every Friday (5-7 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to noon).

Inter-cities chess meet Sept. 13-17

A CASH POT TOTALING P286,000 IS UP for grabs in the 2006 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championships on Sept. 13 to 17 at the Atrium of Gaisano Mall in Davao City.

This was announced yesterday by National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) region XI coordinator James Infesto, who said that he expects a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 70 teams to sign up.

The champion team will get the lion's share of P100,000 plus trophy and individual gold medals for its six members with the runner-up to receive P60,000, a trophy and individual silver medals. Third place will be worth P40,000, a trophy and individual bronze medals.

The fourth and fifth placers will win P20,000 and P15,000 and trophies, respectively, with the sixth to 10th placers winning P10,000, P 8,000, P7,000, P 6,000 and P5,000 and trophies, in that order.

Individual winners from boards 1-6 will also receive cash prizes worth P3,000 and gold medals in this event also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), City Tourism Office, SK Federation -Davao City, PNP & Task Force Davao and other related Davao City Agencies.

Meanwhile, former Philippine Junior champion National Master Jonathan Tan beat Harrison Maamo in the fifth and final round to rule the Blitz chess event over the weekend at the Spazio, 3rd floor, of Gaisano Mall of Davao.

Tan went on to score a perfect 5.0 points for the P2,000 champion's prize in the event that coincided with the launching of the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities tournament.

For inquiries, call or text 0920-9148297

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Race 1—(Or/Tri)—Treasure Island (3), Gonzo (4), Isala

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 2—(Or/Tri)—Diestra (7), Earl Gray (5), Claret Three (2), Kalmia (5)

Race 3—(Or/Tri)—Oceana Dignity/Long Road (5), West Swinger (4), Action Mark (2), Pasir (1)

Race 4—(Or/Tri)—Armistice (3), Iron Heart (1)

Race 5—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—Dazzling Affair (6), Daddy's Girl (7), Gentle in Disguise (1), Snow Princess (2), Holy Smoke (4), Somos O No Somos (2)

Race 6—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Manhattan (4), Mas Monique (8), Sutter's Royal (6), Lydia's Magic/Curadlan (1), Red Diamond (2)

Race 7—(Or/Tri)—California Lady (8), Skatids (3), La Tienne (4), Dream Cross/Tinder (1)

Race 8—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Jay Nicole (6), Sakura Jay (5), Mountain Eagle (3), Latin Music (7), King Aljhin (4)

Race 9—(Tri)—Divine Diva/House of riches (2), Airtap (5), Cold Water (1)

Race 10—(Penta/Or/Tri)—Even Now/Cash Feeder (7), La Perouse (8), Red Strike/Thunder (1), Asura Magic (4), Golden Song (9)

Race 11—(Or/Tri)—Ever Mine Now (5), Suppressed (4), Kerolos/Staunch Ally (1), Alexis Magic (7)

Race 12—(Or/Tri)—Rein of Fire (2), Yankee Clipper (3), Lovable Irisha (5), Maningning (4)

Race 13—(Super 6/Or/Tri)—Chabocans (1), Yoshikawa (3), Britney's Magic (5), Road Runner (4), Western Dancer (10), Power of the Wind (1)



LETRAN'S Aaron Aban tries to break the defense of Perpetual Help's Vladimir Jose during an NCAA game.

Aban, Bautista heart and soul of the Knights

THE LOW GRADE DEFENDING champion Letran got from pre-season analysts stems from the fact that six players from the school's 2003 and 2005 championship teams have orphaned the Knights.

Those analysts seemed to have forgotten the two who are still there.

Dubbed as the "heart and soul" of the Knights, Aaron Aban and Boyet Bautista have picked up the cudgels for Letran and helped the team post six wins in as many outings in the 82nd NCAA men's basketball wars.

"They simply refused to give up every game," said Letran mentor Louie Aas. "As long as Boyet and Aaron are around, I know we have a good chance of winning the title again. They are hard working players, and they inspire their teammates."

Aban and Bautista are at the helm of a team that has been stripped of its core and reduced to a patchwork of former re-

serves, second stringers and inexperienced rookies.

Fittingly, they shared Player of the Week honors yesterday.

Aban and Bautista combined for 29 points and 19 rebounds as Letran tip-toed at the edge of an upset before dismissing Perpetual Help, 60-48. And when the chips were down against Mapua, when the Knights watch the Cardinals chew off their 15-point cushion, the veteran duo squeezed every ounce of championship poise in their body to help their team forge a 74-71 victory. That time, they combined for 36 points.

"That game did not only test our skills but also our mental character," Aas said. "It prepared us for our next match next week against a very strong team—San Beda."

But the Knights face the Lions without fear. Especially with Aban and Bautista around.

"They are my leaders. We won't go this far without them," said Aas.

Bata, Django, 11 other RP cue masters open IPT bids

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE banner a crack Philippine delegation seeing action in the money-rich International Pool Tour 2006 North American 8-Ball Championships starting today at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas.

Reyes, the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-ball tour Vietnam leg winner, is seeking to become the first player to reach the finals of the \$2 million (around P105 million) event for the second straight year.

"Please pray for us," said Reyes in Filipino.

Reyes, who won the World Pool championship in Cardiff, Wales, in 1999, was bracketed in Group 9 along with 2004 US Open champion Gabe Owen of the United States. Francisco Bustamante, Marlon Manalo and Jose "Amang" Parica landed in Groups 10, 12 and 30, respectively.

The four are the only Filipinos seeded into the main draw, the nine other en-



DJANGO BUSTAMANTE



BATA REYES

ties coming from the Philippines, including former world champ Alex Pagulayan and Dennis Orcoilo went through different qualifying stages to get to the

tournament proper.

The other Filipino qualifiers are former AZ Billiards Rookie of the Year Renato Alcano, Warren Kiamco, Rodol-

fo Luat, Gandy Valle, Antonio Lining, Edwin Montal and Santos Sambayan.

A whopping \$350,000 (around P18.5 million) awaits the winner, the biggest prize money in an Open pool tournament.

Tournament format calls for the 200 players to be divided into 40 groups of five players each with the top three from each group advancing after a round robin elimination. The 80 players who fail to advance will earn \$2,000 each.

"We have a very strong chance to win the title, since the 13 Filipinos are scattered in different groups," said billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

So far, Valle drew the toughest bracket, falling in Group 20 together with former world champions Mka "Ice-man" Immonen of Finland and Oliver "The Mach ne" Ortmann of Germany plus talented American Charles "The Billy" Bryant. Marlon Bernardino, contributor

SPORTSWATCH

Olivarez Cup registration opens

REGISTRATION IS NOW ONGOING FOR THE OLIVAREZ CUP AGE-GROUP TENNIS Championships slated Aug. 5-6 and 12-13 at the Olivarez Sports Center in Pasig City. Events on tap are boys and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions. There will also be competitions for veterans in the 30 years old, 40 years old and 50 years old divisions. Entry forms are available at the tournament venue. Contact tournament referee Godfrey Callao at 0928-3735260 and 820-2237. Deadline of entry is Aug. 3 at noon.

Fistorama features Jaro vs Rodrigo

FISTORAMA FEAT JRES THIS AFTERNOON THE FIGHT BETWEEN RP JR FLY-weight champion Sonny Boy Jaro and RP No. 8 Jolo Rodrigo. It is supported by a 4-round bout between amateurs Jan Pontajes and Irwin Jamilo and a six-round professional bout between featherweights Sonny Alfara and Aden Zarco. The fights were held recently at the Salcedo Gymnasium in Polangui, Albay. Fistorama is shown twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. It is also aired on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus will be aired at 3:30 p.m., featuring the elimination match between College of Saint Benilde Team 8 and SJC Team 2 in the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

Executive active chess July 29

THE JULY EDITION OF MCC 2000 EXECUTIVE ACTIVE CHESS REELS OFF JULY 29 at the lower second floor of St. Francis Square behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The event is open to all executives, businessmen, professionals or supervisory positions in private and government firms and whose ratings are not over 2000 based on the NCFF rating list of April 2006. Among those expected to join are Ed Garrovillas, Romeo Talavera, engineer Apollo Zantua, lawyers Joseph Oliveros, Rolito Hiran, Cilburn Orbe, Judylyll Jlanday, Raul Carino, businessmen Jun Rivera, Ruben Medina, Alfredo Chay, Joren Tabilog, Joseph Young, Wang Tan, Richard Villaseran, Ceterino Isaac, Roi Dagan, Rodolfo Mandoza, Francisco Bongalos and Jerry Sagaya and Amador Cobarras Jr. Call MCC at 820-8560 or 0916-6806-712 and 0916-852-1069.

Weigh-in today for PCC derby

WEIGHTS AND OFFICIAL ENTRY NAMES MUST BE SUBMITTED TODAY AT Pasay City Cockpit in connection with the PCC 20th Anniversary 5-cock derby. Entries must be in before 9 p.m. Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the three-day event (July 24, 25 and 28) dangles a guaranteed prize of P2 million for an entry fee of P15,000. According to pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butch Olanio and Roming Vargas, each participant who will score two points in the elimination round will get P10,000. A brand new Honda Wave awaits the fastest win champion. For details, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

150 entries in Roligon derby

MORE THAN 150 SMALL-TIME COCKERS AND BREEDERS CLASH IN THE Motorcycle Festival 4-cock derby on Aug. 1, 3 and 5 at Roligon Mega Cockpit with Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Entertainment as sponsors. "To prove that there is no mounting season at Roligon, we are putting up a guaranteed prize of P1 million regardless of the actual number of entries for an entry fee of only P8,500," promoter Rolly Ligon said yesterday. The fastest win champions during the elimination rounds (2-cock) on Aug. 1 and 3 will get one brand new scooter each. On Aug. 5, the fastest win champion will drive home a brand new Honda 4 Stroke XR. For details, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

Busy sked caps Kimoni Badminton Tour today

IT'S A GRAND DAY FOR BADMINTON as exhibition matches pitting two multi-titled British players against national team standouts and celebrities cap the Battle of Champions of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 today at the Market Market at the Port Bonifacio Global City.

Set to display their wares before an expect big crowd are Colin Houghton, a three-time national champion of England and gold medalist in the 2002 Commonwealth Games, and John Leung, the No. 1 player of Wales and now the national coach of the England and junior team.

They will be competing against Philippine team players.

The exhibition matches of the event sponsored by Powerade Sports Drink and Pagcor Casino Filipino will follow the exciting competitions for level titles in the juniors, ladies, men's and mixed doubles categories in the Battle of Champions featuring winners of various elimination legs held all over the country.

Billy Lim-it, president and CEO of Kimoni



HAUGHTON

Philippines, said that the Kimoni Tour has made its mark and today's festivities will serve as a fitting climax to all the long months of smashing and grinding for local players. "We thank all those who made themselves part of this huge undertaking," said Lim-it.

Also on tap today is a cheer-leading exhibition by Miriam College and the "Fashionably Kimoni" fashion show, where Kimoni's new casual wear by in-

house designer Shermie Bautista will be presented. It will be hosted by celebrity Michael V.

The participation of more than 2,000 players has made the Kimoni Tour one of the biggest in the local badminton scene. Limited Edition Kimoni Golden Power worth P40,000.00 and gift packs await the level/category champions which will be awarded in the evening. A check for P10,000 and a new digital camera will likewise be awarded to the winner of Fuji Best Photo Contest.

Highlights of the Kimoni Battle of the Champions will be shown on ABC Channel 5.

10th Masters Challenge at Southwoods

CARMONA, CAVITE—THE 10TH STAGING of the Manila Southwoods Masters Challenge unfolds on Friday at the spruced-up Masters course of the Manila Southwoods with a banner field expected to sign up.

Organized by the club's multi-titled Ladies' Team, the event will be a true test of championship golf for the field with the par 72 layout, newly revamped, to display its toughest form.

The modified stableford method of scoring will be used.

Trophies for Class A, B and C champions in the men's and ladies divisions are up for grabs as well as prizes and special awards in fun holes, including a cash prize of P100,000 for a hole-in-one and the Ping short game challenge.

The 18-hole event is being backed by San Miguel, Chubbank, Pagcor, SEMI, Asian Hospital, IDC, Mejore, Butuan Doctors' Hospital and businessman Tony Arevalo.

Meralco shuttlers eye Masters division title

IT WILL BE MERALCO AGAINST defending champion Philippine Star today in the Masters division finals of the fourth Sportshouse-Dunlop Corporate Invitational Badminton Cup at the Atrium Building of SM Megamall.

Meralco blanked Intelligencia 3-0, and Star beat Dunlop via the same score to arrange the titular showdown in the Masters division of the tournament organized by former Olympian Weena Lim

and sponsored by Sportshouse and Dunlop Siazenger Group.

The semi-finals in the Corporate Classic pitting San Miguel Corp. against Celestron and Meralco against Pagcor were to be played yesterday afternoon.

Casey Ang-Siy and Dala Santiago struck for Star in the ladies doubles (21 to 34 years), Chester Cordero and Nonoy Aguilar in the men's doubles and Marife Durana and Elaine Lao in the 35 and

above division to clinch their best-of-five tie with Dunlop.

The tandem of Ang-Siy and Santiago yielded only four points in the second set in beating Beth Flido and Norben Blanco, 21-16, 21-4.

Meralco also had an easy time making the finals against Intelligencia as all three tandems it fielded didn't lose a set against their respective rivals.

Scoring for Meralco were Dang Sarabia and Kathleen Anasco who

defeated Mai Bautista and Sheryl Carag, 21-14, 21-13, Rey Seiga and Alex Cuevas who downed JC Benipayo and Roi Inciong, 21-11, 21-19 and Susan Luminarias and Beth Ng who outlasted Lita Pascual and Mariel Tiangco, 21-18, 21-16.

Cordero and Aguilar beat Michael Verdejo and Dandy Ansay, 21-19, 23-21, and Durana and Lao whipped Ern Jorge and Guine Chan, 21-12, 23-21 to round out Star's victors in the semi-finals.

Tour boils down to last time trial



ITALY'S Matteo Tosatto (Quick Step-Innergetic/Bel) tops the 18th stage.

MACON, FRANCE—After a leisurely ride on Friday, one of the most dramatic Tour de France editions in years reaches a crucial stage on Saturday—the individual time trial.

The question on everyone's lips: Can American Floyd Landis overcome a 30-second deficit and wrest the yellow jersey away from race leader Oscar Pereiro of Spain?

The two men have traded the yellow jersey back and forth since last Saturday. Now, the time trial likely will determine who will wear the maillot jaune when it counts—on Sunday in Paris.

"I feel pretty good about my chances," Landis said after Friday's mostly flat stage, in which the leading contenders rode together, trying to recharge after three agonizing days in the Alps. "I'm optimistic."

Saturday's race against the clock is a 57-kilometer (35.4-mile) ride that snakes from Le Creusot to Montceau-les-Mines. It shouldn't take riders, who will leave one by one in reverse order of the standings, much more than an hour to complete.

The last three riders to go will be Landis, second-placed Spaniard Carlos Sastre, who's 12 seconds back, and Pereiro.

The course is about the same length as the Stage 7 time trial, though a little more hilly. Landis finished second in that stage, 1:10 faster than Sastre and 1:40 ahead of Pereiro.

But extrapolations mean little this year, when seven different riders have worn yellow—one short of the record.

Wild unpredictable finishes are replacing Lance Armstrong's era of dom-



PEREIRO: Yellow Jersey



LANDIS: Favorite

nation.

Whereas Armstrong meticulously chipped away at his rivals, 30-year-old Landis has shown a flair for drama—nearly cracking one day, then coming back with a once-in-a-lifetime ride.

He became a fan favorite on Thursday, winning the final Alpine stage to slash his 8-minute, 8-second deficit to Pereiro to 30 seconds and putting him back in contention.

Making it even more incredible is that Landis is riding with an arthritic hip, an injury from a 2003 crash that he

hopes to correct with surgery this autumn.

"The other day, when I saw Floyd (struggle), I can say in my heart that I wasn't happy," said Pereiro, a former Phonak teammate who calls Landis a friend. "Now I am."

"But it's clear that it's going to be harder for me to win the Tour," he said, acknowledging that Landis is typically stronger in time trials.

"I'm going to push the limit."

On Friday, he and the other top riders took it easy as Italy's Matteo Tosatto won the 18th stage, out-sprinting two other breakaway riders at the end of the 197-kilometer (122.4-mile) ride from Morzine to Macon.

The Quickstep rider clocked 4 hours, 16 minutes, 15 seconds. Pereiro, Landis and Sastre cruised in 8 minutes later.

Pereiro, of the Illes Balears squad, holds a thin 12-second lead over Team CSC rider and fellow Spaniard Sastre.

But the Spaniards aren't even their teams' biggest stars.

Ivan Basso of Italy, the Team CSC leader, was disqualified on the eve of the Tour, implicated in a Spanish doping investigation. The star of Pereiro's team, Alejandro Valverde, crashed out in Stage 3 with a broken right collarbone.

The doping probe—and the absence of now-retired Armstrong—have played havoc with fans' attempts to figure out the favorites for the title. Going into the Alps on Tuesday, several cyclists held out hope for the yellow jersey.

Thursday's final Alpine stage has narrowed the focus to Pereiro, Sastre and Landis.

Even so, T-Mobile rider Andreas Klöden of Germany, the 2004 Tour runner-up and a strong time-trial rider, has an outside shot at the title, 2:29 behind Pereiro.

Rodriguez achieves milestone

TORONTO—NEW YORK YANKEES THIRD baseman Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to reach 450 home runs in Major League Baseball when he hit one against the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday.

The three-run homer in the third inning off AJ Burnett was also Rodriguez's 2000th hit.

Rodriguez, who turns 31 next Thursday, is the eighth player to get his 2000th hit before his 31st birthday.

The milestones come at a time when Rodriguez has struggled. He committed his team-leading 17th error in Thursday's loss to Toronto.

Ken Griffey Jr. was the previous youngest to reach 450. He was 31 years, 261 days old when he did it in August 2001.

It's still USA, but where has all the swagger gone?

DENVER—THE LETTERS U, S AND A still are on their jerseys and NBA players still are wearing them. But the swagger of the Dream Team is gone.

After years of dominance, USA Basketball is no longer the biggest bully in a global game, something Team USA looks to fix. Training camp in Las Vegas started in preparation for the world championships in Japan next month. It's the first time USA Basketball has had an all-out training camp and competition among its best players to assemble a team.

While USA Basketball is confident it will return to its glory days with a better approach to team building, not everyone is convinced.

"They are very hard to predict," Spain's Pau Gasol, who plays in the NBA for the Memphis Grizzlies, said of the Americans. "I don't know what to expect. Any other time I would have given them a favorite spot to fight for the gold medal."

"(But) training camp in Las Vegas? I don't know about that."

From 1992-2001, USA Basketball never lost an international game with NBA players. Starting with the original Dream Team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics which included Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, the US was so dominant that awed opponents often asked for autographs. But all that changed at the 2002 world championships in Indianapolis.

After winning their first five games easily, the US lost, 87-80, to Argentina, ending USA Basketball's 58-game winning streak with NBA players. The US finished sixth.

A subsequent bronze medal at the 2004 Athens Games convinced USA Basketball officials changes were needed. That team included the likes of the Den-

ver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony, who played little, LeBron James, Allen Iverson and Dwyane Wade.

The most stunning USA loss in Athens was 92-73 to Puerto Rico.

"For us to do it opened eyes that other teams can do it," Puerto Rico's Carlos Arroyo said of the Olympic rout of the US. "It got our confidence high. Our country is playing the game of basketball a lot more than they used to since the Olympics."

Said the Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom, a member of that US team: "Everyone that was on that team probably matured a little bit from what we went through over there."

USA Basketball responded to the poor showing by hiring Phoenix Suns chairman and CEO Jerry Colangelo as its managing director last year. Part of Colangelo's mission was finding players passionate about representing the US and committed to the team through the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Instead of having a predetermined group of 12 players, the US now has 24 national team members who are vying for 12 roster spots on a team that will play in the world championships, which start Aug. 23 and conclude Sept. 3.

Members of the US coaching staff, led by Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, have made three-year commitments.

"What seemed to make sense was to develop a new infrastructure and develop something with continuity," Colangelo said. "So for the very first time in our history, we now have a national team."

Said Krzyzewski: "No one is an alternate and everyone has equal footing for a three-year period, which I think is an advantage that the international teams have had over us in the last decade." NY Times News Service



TEAM USA now has just one basketball goal in mind: Reclaiming the dominance that once belonged to the Americans.

Ohio tennis: Williams rips Frazier

MASON, OHIO—SERENA WILLIAMS REACHED the semifinals for the first time in more than a year, beating Amy Frazier, 6-2, 6-2, on Friday night to advance at the Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open.

Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion whose WTA Tour ranking fell to 140 while she took six months off with a chronic left knee injury, will meet 52nd-ranked Vera Zvonareva on Saturday. Williams last reached a semifinal at Dubai in March 2005. She's played only nine tournaments since then.

"It feels good," Williams said. "I've come this far, I don't want it to end now—keep going. I think I'm definitely getting better. I just need to keep moving forward with my game."

Zvonareva routed fifth-seeded Jelena Jankovic, 6-1, 6-1, in 42 minutes to book her semifinals spot.

Young RP bets Inton, Bolinas join US archery tilt

THE PHILIPPINES' YOUNG ARCHERY sensations get their baptism of international fire when they see action in the 22nd National Target Archery Championship from July 31 to Aug. 6 at Colorado Springs in the United States.

National junior champion Leina Balinas and two-time gold medalist cadet archer Mariel Enrile-Inton clash with formidable rivals from the US and Europe in the event that serves as qualifying for the 2006 World Junior Target Championship in

Merida, Mexico, on Oct. 12-15.

Balinas and Inton were invited by the National Archery Association of the United States after impressive performances in the recent National Archery Association of the Philippines (NAAP)

Championship held at Remy Field in Subic, Olongapo.

"Internationals exposures will surely help hone their God-given talents and we (NAAP) are here to support them," NAAP president Leonora Brawner said.



ARTURO Gatti (left) and Carlos Baldomir pose during the weigh-in.

Third world title motivates nervous Gatti

HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY—SIX MONTHS AFTER he almost retired, Arturo Gatti said he has his desire back as he heads into Saturday's WBC welterweight title bout against reigning champ Carlos Baldomir.

"I'm very excited, very nervous," Gatti said at a news conference held a short distance away from his home in Jersey City. "I haven't felt like this since I fought Tracy Patterson in '95, my first title fight. I want this fight more than ever."

Beating Patterson earned Gatti the IBF junior lightweight title, his first, and he went on to win the WBC junior welterweight belt in 2004 against Gianluca Branco in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, the same arena where he will face Baldomir.

The chance to win a belt in a third weight

class is one motivator for the 34-year-old Gatti, who admitted after beating Thomas Darragard in January that he had decided a loss to the unbeaten Dane would signal the end of the line after 15 years and 47 fights.

That became unnecessary when he stopped Darragard in the 11th round, an outcome that also eased some of the sting of a lopsided beating Gatti absorbed at the hands of Floyd Mayweather Jr. the previous June.

Whenever Gatti (40-7, 31 KOs) decides to hang up the gloves—and he intimated that each fight will bring another reassessment—he will leave as one of the sport's grittiest performers. That quality has endeared him to fight fans in New Jersey, who had already snapped up all 12,000 tickets in

Boardwalk Hall by early in the week.

His legacy secure in Atlantic City, he seemed unconcerned about whether his achievements merit consideration for boxing's hall of fame.

"To be honest, I really don't care," Gatti said. "It would be nice if I was inducted, but it seems like some writers don't think I should be. But if you ask the fans, they think I should. So I'm not going to break my head over that. I'm not done yet. The boxing hall of fame's for retired fighters, and I'm not ready to retire."

In the 35-year-old Baldomir (42-9-6, 12 KOs), Gatti will face a fighter who has been knocked down only once as a professional and who shocked Zab Judah in January to win the welterweight title as a heavy underdog.

Els keeps Tiger in sight



HE'S WITHIN reach of two quality rivals and still, observers believe it's time to call the British Open a day. The Claret Jug belongs to Tiger Woods.

Faldo: Woods makes the chase tough

HOYLAK, ENGLAND—NICK FALDO USED to play golf so well he won a couple of British Opens, broke Greg Norman's heart at the Masters, and shattered the hopes of the Americans in more than one Ryder Cup.

Not exactly the kind of guy you would expect to see acting like a Tiger Woods groupie. But there Faldo was on Friday, asking Woods for souvenirs and making sure he didn't step in his line or sneeze in his backswing as Woods seized control of the British Open.

"The man has got a heart and brains that are better than anyone else's," Faldo gushed.

Faldo wasn't the only one to notice that as morning turned to afternoon and everyone turned to the big yellow scoreboards at Royal Liverpool to see just how low Woods would go.

Plenty low, as it turned out. A 4-iron into the cup on the 14th hole will be the shot replayed over and over again, but the methodical way Woods went about his business is the real reason why he will be holding the claret jug aloft for a second straight time sometime Sunday.

Oh, there's a little business left over the weekend, and the master of Ernie Els and that pesky Chris DiMarco to take care of.

But, barring an unexpected hurricane off the Irish Sea, there are no surprises in this Open for Woods. The wispy rough offers no penalty, he can tee off with a 2-iron when others are tucking driver, and the par-5s might as well be par-4s.

This is as close to a lock as it gets. Woods could give Faldo his driver and still win it.

Actually, he just might. Faldo asked him for it for his son, and since Woods has hit it only once all week he really doesn't have any use for it anyway.

"If the weather stays decent, he will get to 20-under and good luck," Faldo said. "How are they going to beat him with that score?"

HOYLAK, ENGLAND—TIGER WOODS COULD not even see the flag, but he knew his 4-iron was close to perfect. Thousands of fans who were crammed elbow-to-elbow on a grassy hillock above the 14th green saw the ball bang into the cup, but they had no idea who hit it.

Seconds later, when Woods emerged from behind a row of bunkers and high-fived his caddy, the mystery was over.

The question Friday was whether the British Open was over.

Woods put on a clinic with his long irons, none more spectacular than his eagle from 209 yards on one of the toughest holes at Royal Liverpool. It carried him to a 7-under 65, matching his best score ever in a major, and gave him a one-shot lead over Ernie Els.

"I was just trying to land the ball on the front edge and let it chase on there and get my 4 and go on," Woods said. "It happened to go in."

But when asked whether the tournament was over, Woods tapped the table.

"I'm not here with the (claret) jug," he said. "We've got a long way to go, man."

Even so, his name atop the leaderboard is a daunting sight at Grand Slam events. This is the seventh time Woods has had the 36-hole lead in a major, and he has never lost from out front.

That didn't seem to bother Els. When the Big Easy headed to the first tee, the scoreboard already showed Woods at 12 under par.

Instead of getting spooked, Els inspired.

"If he's 12 under, there's some birdies to be made out there," Els said. "I had to get my share of them."

Els made birdie on all the par 5s,

and picked up two more strokes with shots that were every bit as good as Woods', though not quite as dramatic. One was a bump-and-run 7-iron that stopped rolling 2 feet from the cup on No. 3, the other a 4-iron into 15 feet left of the flag on the 14th. He made birdie from just short of the par-5 18th for his 65.

All along, his target was Woods and that posted score of 12-under 132.

"I didn't want to back down," Els said. "I really was trying to get into this final group. I haven't been in this position for a while. I'd love to play as well or even better on the weekend. Maybe I'll have to."

It will be the first time Woods and Els have played in the final group at a major since the last round of the 2000 US Open, although that was hardly a fair fight. Woods had a 10-shot lead, and wound up winning by 15.

But with two days remaining, the British Open was hardly a two-man race.

Chris DiMarco, whose mother died of a heart attack July 4, emerged from his slump with a 65 and was three shots behind at 9-under 135. Another shot back was two-time US Open champion Retief Goosen, who had a 66.

Still, it all starts with Woods, who is trying to become the first back-to-back British Open champion since Tom Watson in 1982-83.

"Tiger at his best is hard to beat," said DiMarco, who lost a playoff to Woods in the Masters last year. "AP

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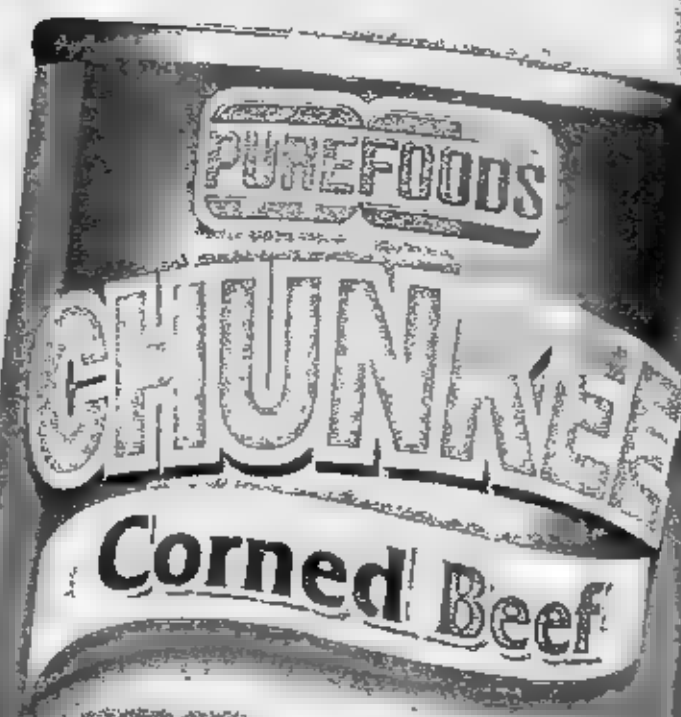
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ONCE again, Ernie Els faces a familiar obstacle.

With knee-ache gone, it's time to deal with that pain in the neck

HOYLAK, ENGLAND—THE PAIN in his knee is gone, but it's that lingering pain in the neck named Tiger Woods who is still there to bother Ernie Els. This is a psychological hurt, one that is not easily dismissed. Not for anyone.

Especially not for Els.

Woods has taken a spot in many a golfer's head, but none quite so prominently as Els, the Big Easy, who has had a tough time living and competing in the midst of the game's No. 1 player.

Nobody in golf has finished runner-up to Woods as often as Els, which is nothing to be ashamed of unless you have similar aspirations, similar designs on

That is why Els' 7-under-par 65 on Friday at Royal Liverpool was so huge.

When just about everyone was ready to inscribe a familiar name onto the Claret Jug and talk about Woods' 11th major title, Els put together his own 65 to set up an interesting final 36 holes at the 135th Open Championship.

"Exactly, that's what I was thinking, especially on the back nine," said Els, 36, after closing the gap to a single stroke heading into today's third round. "I didn't want to get crazy aggressive, but I

needed to keep the foot on the pedal. I needed to try and get close to him."

"As you and I know, he's quite a good front-runner, so you need to kind of reach out and try and hold him back."

Benign conditions continued to favor the field at Royal Liverpool, and Woods, 30, took advantage, making an eagle 2 at the par-4 14th to propel him to a familiar place, atop a major championship leaderboard.

His 65 put him at 132, 12 under par, tying the Open Championship record for 36 holes in relation to par.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson shot 71 to fall eight behind.

"I'm not here with the Jug," Woods said of the talk that the tournament was over, just as Els was beginning his round, trailing by eight strokes.

DiMarco is one who has made up ground on Woods in a major. He did it at the 2005 Masters, where Woods led by three but bogeyed the final two holes to fall into a playoff. Woods won on the first extra hole.

"Tiger at his best is hard to beat," DiMarco said. "Tiger at a course he likes at his best is really hard to beat." *NYTimes News Service*



Editor Enrique G. Velarde

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The video for my carrier single "Carry My Love" is directed by Paul Basemille. I play a princess who's cursed and trapped in a castle. My prince charming—injured in battle—arrives. I have healing powers so I take care of him, but I still can't get out of the castle.

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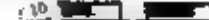


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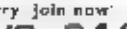
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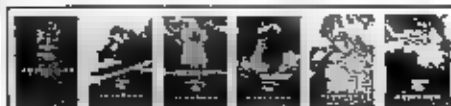
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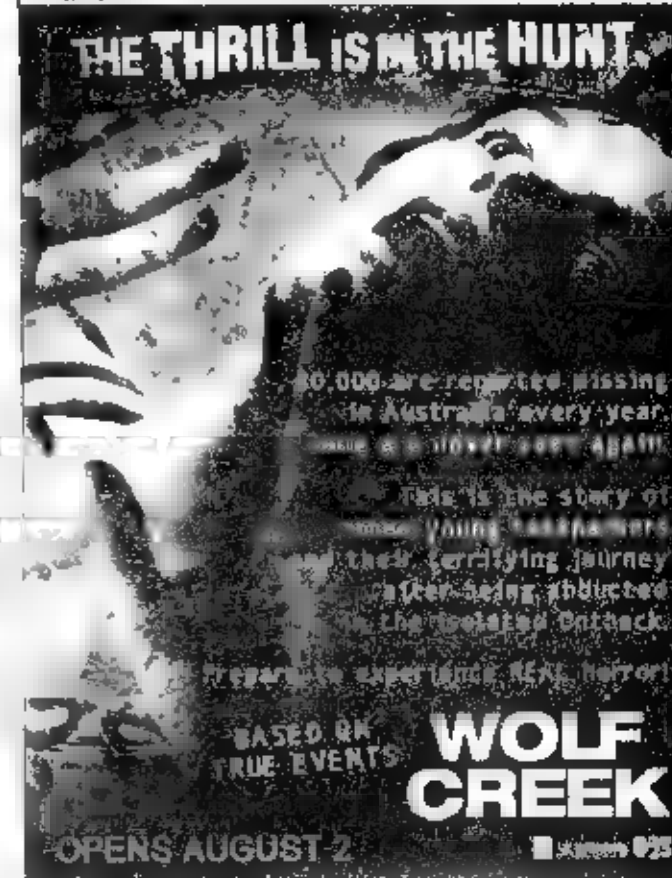
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Fab Five agree on George Clooney

AFTER DISPENSING TIPS ON GROOMING, FASHION, culture, food and home during a Manila press con on Monday, the hosts of the Emmy award-winning "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," recently renamed "Queer Eye"—(from left) culture expert Jan Rodriguez; design doctor Thom Filicia; beauty and health expert Kyan Douglas; food and wine connoisseur Ted Allen; and fashion guru Carson Kressley—named the top fab celebrity in their book.

"George Clooney is our staple," Rodriguez declared. Kressley added, "No matter where you see him—sail-

ing, or getting Starbucks coffee—he looks amazing," Douglas quipped. "We are actually agreeing on something here. It's a milestone."

Prior to the consensus, the Fab Five tossed a few more names around to complete a list of five—Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Matthew McConaughey.

The "Queer Eye" (ETC, Mondays, 9 p.m.) hosts, who recently finished shooting their 100th episode, are in Manila for a three-day visit.

Joyce C. Abañero



BROADCASTERS Bobby Nazaro and Mike Enriquez

FRANCINE PRIETO

GMA 7's Cebu blowout

By Nini Valera

CEBU CITY—"THE THINGS I DO FOR A LIVING," said Jessica Soho, GMA 7 vice president for News, after singing "Matad Nua" before a crowd of thousands who had trooped to the Mandaue Sports Complex on July 15 to watch the network's 56th anniversary bash.

Not to be outdone, Arnold Clavio and Love Añover danced and did a duet of "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" Susan Enriquez unleashed the

disco hit "Awitin Mo," with co-host Recca.

Jiggy Mamead only had to wear his heart-throb persona to win the crowd.

The news personalities, not used to being artists, admitted to being nervous performing onstage. But in true *kapuso* fashion, the "stars" of GMA 7's news block entertained the Cebuanos with a lot of heart.

And then they also had to sign autographs, like the stars of the network prime time shows—Jay-R, Kyla, Rhian Ramos, Patrick Garcia and Camille Pratts, Keempee de Leon, Maureen Larrazabal and Francine Prieto.

Free services were offered in various booths sponsored by top-rating shows. Hundreds had their blood pressure taken in Clavio's "Emergency" booth, where medicines and vitamins were also distributed and emergency treatments conducted.

The booths of "Kay Susan Tayo," "Wish Ko Lang," and "Ang Pagbabago" transformed women "clients" with new hairstyles. Not a few were able to call loved ones abroad through a "Libreng Tawag" booth.

Lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, GMA 7 chairman, president and chief operating officer, announced the network's expansion program in the Queen City and other key areas in the provinces.

Gozon said the network was set to spend P168 million for the upgrade of transmitters and other facilities. Plans are also afoot to develop more local shows in the city, he said.

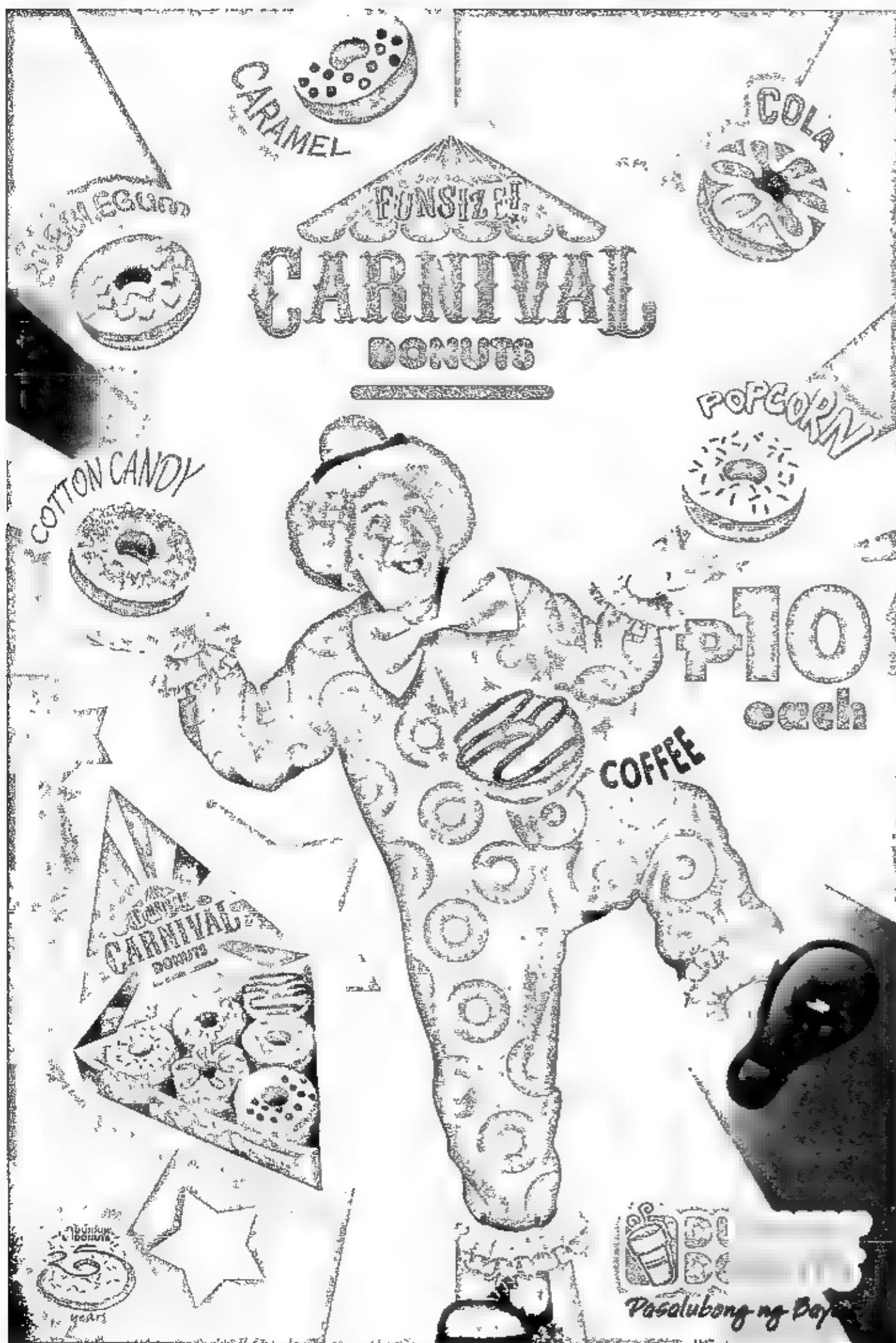
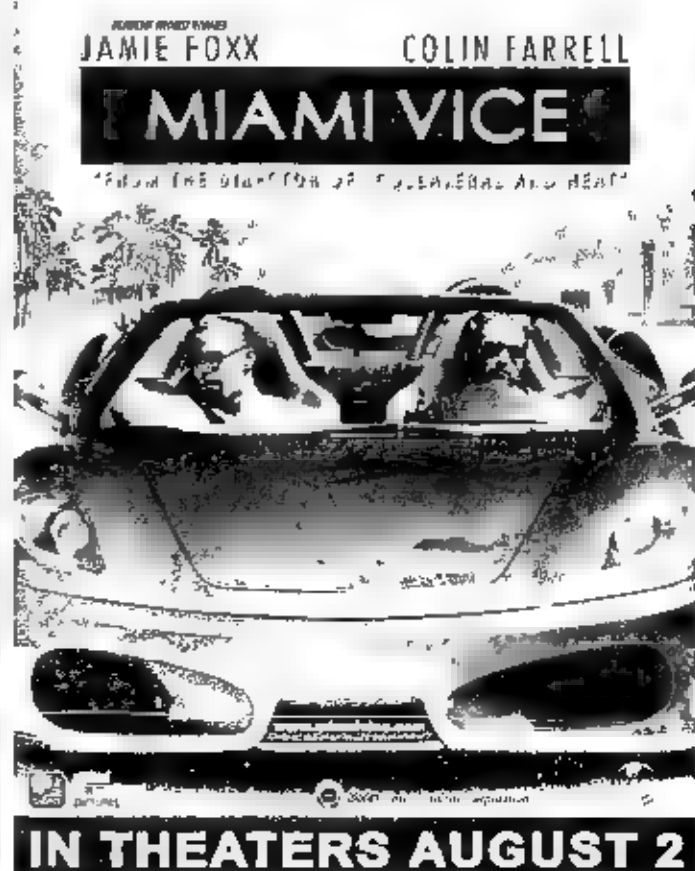
Cebu socialite Lorna Quistambing said she had never seen anything like this in the city. "I'm amazed at the turnout," she said.



JAY-R signs autographs.



FANS rush to meet Jessica Soho.



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THE SURVIVORS and their screen alter egos (from left): Michael Pena plays Will Jimeno; Nicolas Cage plays John McLoughlin. The two policemen were buried in tons of debris when the World Trade Center's Twin Towers collapsed.

'I actually saw Jesus coming toward me'—9/11 survivor

LOS ANGELES—"I ACTUALLY SAW Jesus coming toward me," revealed Will Jimeno—one of a few 9/11 World Trade Center survivors—in a recent press con that left jaded reporters in silence.

The extraordinary, moving story of Will, and his fellow survivor, John McLoughlin, is told by Oliver Stone in the film "World Trade Center." Will and John, Port Authority policemen who had gone to rescue people trapped at the World Trade Center, were themselves trapped when the towers collapsed. They miraculously survived despite being buried in tons of debris.

The two men were among the last to be rescued. Then aged 33 and 48, respectively, Will and John were found 20 feet below the rubble field of concrete slabs and twisted metal. A determined former marine, Dave Karnes, had a crucial role in rescuing

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Ruben V. Nepales



them.

Upon watching the tragedy unravel on TV, Dave left his work as an accountant in Connecticut, went to church, wore his old Marine uniform, had a haircut and drove to Ground Zero, managing to go past the barricades. A man only known as Sgt. Thomas who has not been heard from since, accompanied Dave in the search for survivors, even as rescuers were told to leave the site because it was unsafe.

Only 20 people survived out of more than 2,000 who were trapped

when the Twin Towers collapsed. Will was buried for 13 hours while John was trapped much longer—for 22 hours. This dramatic real-life story is the core of Oliver's film.

Interviewed via satellite in New York, Will and John appeared before reporters on a monitor assembled at a hotel in LA. The two guys are from different backgrounds and have contrasting personal ties. Will, who was born in Colombia, appeared easygoing and expressive. John, nicknamed "Irish Eyes," seemed serious, taciturn, and had his eyes downcast most of the time.

But it was John who was overcome with emotion several times during the press con, especially when he narrated how he tried to send on the radio what he thought would be their final messages to their families.

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Will. Some people who have seen the film told me, "That Jesus part is a little corny." But that actually happened. I was brought up as a Catholic. I am not overly religious but I had lost the will to live at that point when I made my peace with God.

but that's what happened'

When I closed my eyes—I don't know if I passed out—I saw Jesus coming toward me. I was really thirsty. When I saw Jesus, I knew I didn't see His face [but] he had a bottle of water in his hand.

I snapped out of it and that's when I yelled to John, "We're going to make it out!" I can't explain to anybody how horrific it was down there. I tell people if there are things in the film that sounds corny ... I mean, it was what happened.

Did you actually pray the Lord's Prayer during your ordeal?

John: They only showed it once (in the film) but in reality I said the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary over and over until the rescue workers got there.

Will: We prayed together at times.

In the film, you asked a rescuer to cut your leg off so you can be freed from a concrete slab and the rescuers can get to John, who was buried deeper. Are you still in contact with that rescuer?

Will: Scott Strauss was the one who said he wouldn't cut my leg off. He was an emergency service unit cop. I'm very close to him.

How much do you know about Dave Karnes, a former Marine, who decided to put on his old uniform, drive to Ground Zero and find you?

John: He's real. He did climb into the debris field, and he did find us. We're glad he did what he did, took that chance and risked his life.

How has this incident changed your life?

Will: Anybody who goes through such a tragedy and does not get affected is wasting a second opportunity at life. Today we are better persons. We appreciate the love from our families, our friends. We take time to enjoy those moments in life that really just pass us by so quickly. I hope that when people walk out of the theater, and go home to their loved ones, they hug them a little tighter.

John: I just want to live life to the fullest. I don't allow things to get in the way of the daily activities with my family. That's how it has changed my life. I express myself more openly to my wife and kids now.

How did you react when you first saw the film?

Will: I was very pleased Oliver and everybody involved got it right.

John: It was a very emotional experience. It was difficult to watch but I watched it all the way through. The film was very well done and stayed true to the story.

How are you doing physically and mentally today? Do you have nightmares?

John: My legs don't work properly. I have braces on my lower legs and large parts of my upper legs are missing. It's difficult to get around but I'm walking. They didn't expect me to ever walk again so I'm grateful for what I have.

Will: I'm able to do things that I thought I never again would. I also wear a brace on my left leg because my foot doesn't work. I don't have. I've had counseling and come to grips with the PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). I can't play soccer and things like that. But I still get around and I'm able to enjoy my children.

Do you feel safe? Are you worried about the current state of the world?

John: Everybody's concerned with the state of the world today and how can you not be? There's a lot of turmoil. I feel safe and secure where I am and where we go. I can't live in fear and I don't want to.

Will: We have shown that terrorism won't win. Look at the bombing in Spain, what happened on 9/11, in India—people pick up the pieces because we're not going to stop living. We are going to overcome these events so all our children can live in peace.

Are you angry at the people? Do you condemn their entire

race?

Will: I was living in Clifton, New Jersey, a heavily Arab area. I don't feel it's right to harbor hard feelings. Many Arab people have come up to me, condemning the terrorists. We need to judge people on a one-on-one basis. We have to understand that all people are not bad, that you have in every culture a group of people who are not good.

John: I don't have any hatred toward anybody. All that does is burn you out, put you in a bad place. I try to see the best in people. That's how I've always treated people and how I will continue to treat people.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.



MICHAEL Shannon (speaking) as rescuer Dave Karnes, who found Will (Karnes) and John (McLaughlin).

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 12:30, 2:50, 7:10, 10:30
G

LADY IN THE WATER
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2 LADY IN THE WATER
MTRCB: PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

3 RUNAWAY VACATION
MTRCB: G
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

4 NACHO LIBRE
MTRCB: PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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2 2:00, 5:20, 8:30 MTRCB: G

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RUNAWAY VACATION
G
1:50, 4:30, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
G
12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10

SUPERMAN RETURNS
G
12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

LADY IN THE WATER
PG-13
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

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TAMARA

Why was Jaclyn red in the face?



ANGEL LOCSIN

WHY WAS JACLYN JOSE RED IN THE face when she emerged from the screening of "Tulad ng Dati," a Cinemalaya entry, at the CCP?

1) She had a very personal interest in the story of the band on which the movie was based.

2) The movie by Mike Sandejas includes some very powerful clips of the late Dawn lead guitarist and co-founder Teddy Diaz.

3) Ping Medina, who portrays Diaz, looks very eerily like the character in the movie.

4) All of the above

This Angel's secret

Angel Locsin tells S Magazine her success formula in this month's issue:



COLIN FARRELL

She does her best all the time. She perseveres at being patient and professional. She plays a lot.

"I wanted to be a star since I was a tot... I'm not wasting any single opportunity," she says. "I've come to love the business, aside from the fact that this is my bread and butter. I'd like to stay here as long as possible."

We suggest a straightforward, honest-to-goodness acting vehicle.

Pia's pick

IN another magazine—Manual—this



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

month, Pia Guanio describes her dream boyfriend: "Understanding, patient, funny, accomplished... smarter and more driven than I am." The interview for the cover story was very likely done before the publication of a newspaper item linking her to "Eat Buwaga" co-host Vic Sotto.

Which comes first, the measure or the man?

McConaughey on eBay

DALLAS—Matthew McConaughey is selling a sports car on eBay to raise money for hurricane relief.

The 36-year-old actor is donating all proceeds from the sale of his 1971 Corvette Stingray convertible to Oprah's Angel Network for Katrina and Rita recovery efforts. AP



PIA GUANIO

RUSHES

Reclusive Suri

NEW YORK—More than three months after her birth, Suri Cruise, daughter of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, has yet to be seen in public.

Cruise spokesman Arnold Robinson has said Suri will make her bow when her parents are good and ready.

Meanwhile, Leah Remini, a friend of the 44-year-old actor and a fellow Scientologist, has this report: "She looks like Tom and Katie, she's just beautiful." AP

This way, ma'am

BURBANK, California—"The Tonight Show" had an unscripted moment when a woman from the audience walked up to Colin Farrell as he was talking to host Jay Leno. The 30-year-old Irish actor quickly escorted her off stage and asked for security in the incident Thursday.

"She said something to Colin Farrell that no one heard," said Molly Martini, 16, from St. Paul, Minnesota. AP

Look who's 18?

PASADENA, California—Actor Haley Joel Osment fractured a rib and hurt his shoulder in a car crash early Thursday, his doctor said.

The 18-year-old actor was in good condition and expected to make a complete recovery, said Dr. Paul Gilbert, an orthopedic surgeon at Huntington Hospital here. AP



CAPARAS signs deal with Felipe L. Gozon, GMA 7 chair and CEO.

Where his loyalty lies

Text and photo by Nimi Valera

"I KNOW MY LOYALTY WILL BE QUESTIONED for moving to GMA 7 to do 'Bakekang,'" said Carlo Caparas. "But next to Donna Villa, my wife, my loyalty is to my creations."

This was how komiks writer and film director Carlo Caparas justified his switch from ABS-CBN, which earlier mounted his classic komiks novel "Panday" for television. GMA 7 is serializing "Bakekang," another of his masterpieces, for prime time viewing starting in September.

Caparas told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview on Thursday that he did not bolt ABS-CBN because of "Panday's" poor ratings. ABS-CBN, he said, had also acquired the rights to his novel, "Tuklaw."

"The ratings might have been low," he said of "Panday," which starred Jencho Rosales. "But everywhere I went in the provinces, even in the mountains, 'Panday' children were everywhere."

Caparas said ABS-CBN executives had also shown interest in "Bakekang," but that nothing went beyond talks.

Opportunity

Instead of looking at the GMA 7 deal as an act of disloyalty, Caparas saw it as an opportunity. "It's my pleasure to work for another giant network," he said, adding that his creativity was not exclusive to any one network.

"Even when I was still writing for the komiks, I never wrote exclusively for one publication," he stressed. "I wrote for all. Gusto ko, kaibigan ako ng bayan."

Caparas described Bakekang as a tragic heroine. "Her revenge against her oppression was to have a beautiful daughter," he said.

For the creative team that would handle "Bakekang" for GMA 7, the challenge was how to give it a modern dimension. But it turned out to be a breeze, according to Wilma Galvante, GMA 7's senior vice president for entertainment TV.

She said Caparas would be involved in the development of "Bakekang" for TV because "no one knows the character better than he does."

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ Tips on organizing overseas roadshows in the US /B3

■ No one is too young to go into business /B3



Is it just a fad?

By Germeina Lacorte
 PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—THE CRAZE FOR what may currently be the world's most fashionable slippers is not going to die down yet, says Margarita Montemayor, general manager of Martish Marketing, who distributes the flip-flop brand Havaianas in Southern and Western Mindanao.

"In fact, these flip-flops are here to stay," says Montemayor, talking about the fashionable footwear she displays right at the lobby of Davao's hotel Villa Margarita, a family hotel named after her.

The Brazilian brand captured the imagination of the market and turned the product into a craze.

But unlike the once ubiquitous slipper brand Spartan, which sells as low as P30 in the market, a pair of Havaianas roughly costs as much as P615 to P1,195 a pair. Those embellished with crystals can even reach as high as P1,500 to P2,500 a pair, says Montemayor

who is going to launch the Swarovski, Czech crystals and wood collections at Chimes Specialty Store here next month.

Despite the price, sales have been so brisk that outlets have often run out of stocks, according to Montemayor, who supplies nine boutiques in Davao. Industry forecasts the trend to continue worldwide in 2007, she adds.

"A fad?" she asks.

Montemayor shakes her head vigorously. "The thing is getting to be a 'must-buy,' a necessity."

She admits she was among those who used to think the craze for Havaianas was just a passing fad but when she got to know the product better, she changed her mind.

"Do you think that after you've got used to the feel of Havaianas, you can still go back to wearing Spartan?" she asks. "No," she says, adding that more people are seeking the brand for comfort and durability instead of

Flipping over flip-flops

Brazilian brand changes image of once lowly footwear

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

BRAZIL IS A DISTANT place from Manila that requires almost 24 hours of travel time.

Few Filipinos know anything about Brazil, except perhaps the Carnival—its annual street party event where women go topless; and photos of the huge statue of the Christ the Redeemer on top of Mt. Corcovado in Rio de Janeiro.

These days, however, over 380,000 Filipinos "step into" Brazil everyday. Brazil stays with them in their homes and go with them to the malls or the beach.

They do these via the Havaianas—the popular flip-flops from Brazil that has revolutionized how Filipinos regard and how they use the once lowly slippers (now called flip-flops).

And take note at how much some Pinoys pay for a flip-flop these days—P700 to P3,000.

At current sales, revenues over the past three years total over P200 million to over P300 million.

And those are just from slipper sales.

The popularity of this brand prompted local makers to create new designs for the slippers cre-



FREDDY and Anne Gonzalez and Jon Syjuco are the young faces behind the success of the Havaianas in the country.

ating a second tier in the market for those who cannot afford the price tag of the Havaianas. This second tier makers sell their slippers at about P70 to P150 a pair.

Quality, however, is very different.

Will the popularity of the Havaianas last?

The couple who brought the

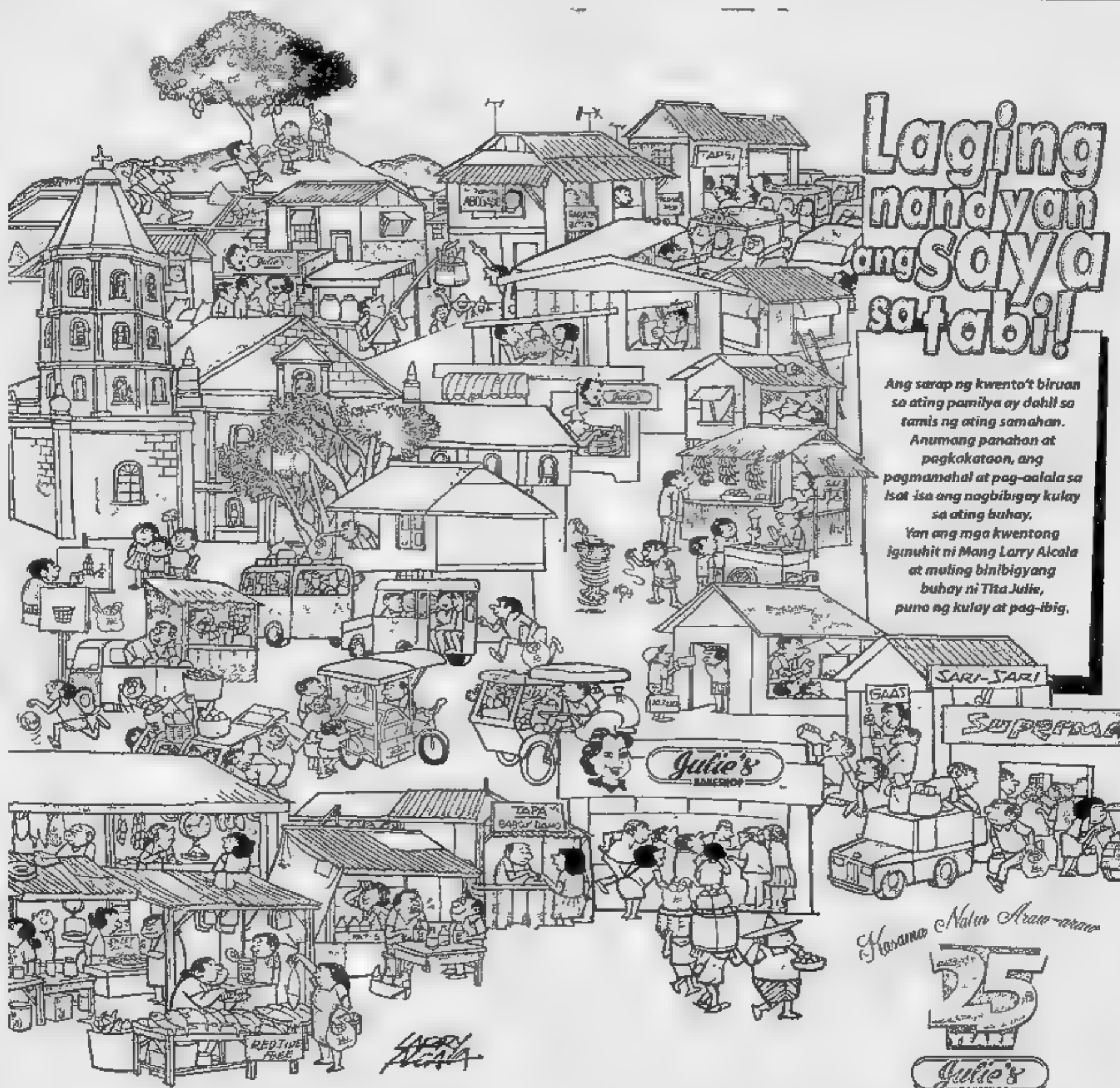
Havaianas to the Philippines are confident that slippers or flip-flops as casual, outside-the-home wear is here to be stepped on.

"It is a simple product that all Filipinos use in their daily lives. It's fashionable, it's comfortable, and it's practical. We have been in the market since 2003 and have changed the way peo-

ple view flip-flops in the Philippines and we are just going to get better and better every year," states Alfredo R. Gonzalez, head of Terry S.A., the firm that distributes Havaianas in the Philippines.

Freddy started the business with his wife, the former Anne Arcenas.

FLIPPING/B2



Havaianas' beginnings

AVA
LINES
START

ed in Brazil in 1962. Anne A. Gonzalez relates that for 20 years it carried the same style—white footbeds and colored straps. One day, somebody in the beach flipped the slippers and at-

tached the straps to the under side which was the same color as the strap creating a solid colored flip-flop. Somebody from the firm saw the innovation and adopted it—creating the first design change for the then

20-year-old firm.

Since then, Havaianas became more creative and concocted a variety of designs.

The firm has a 95-percent market share in Brazil. It remained a local product for almost 40 years and it was only a few years ago that it expanded overseas.

All Havaianas flip-flops are made in Brazil only.

The slippers are made from pure rubber.

In the Philippines, the Havaianas with heels are the most popular among Filipinos because they feel there is more rubber in it, plus it gives the generally petite females more height.

Flipping over flipflops

Before they got married, the two thought of going into business together. Both admit they had no entrepreneurial background although Freddy belongs to the Razon family, owners of ICTSI, a port operator.

They wanted to bring a new brand or service to the Philippines. Anne has a sister in Hawaii who suggested flip-flops—a uniform of beach habits.

The suggestion was strengthened when Freddy's brother, fresh from his Master's degree in Europe, brought home a magazine with an ad for Havaianas flip-flops and told the couple that the Europeans were wearing these footwear even in the clubs.

Anne and Freddy searched the Net for a contact person and Freddy sent out letters expressing interest in carrying the product in the Philippines.

"We did not even know if our e-mail was getting sent to the right person," says Anne.

A reply came and a Brazilian Havaianas exec said he was going to Australia and was willing to stop by Manila to meet with Anne and Freddy.

"We took him around our malls in our car, had a simple meal in a restaurant and just basically got to know each other," relates Anne.

The Brazilian apparently liked what he saw and agreed to make the couple its distributor in the Philippines.

Anne says what was good about Havaianas is that after they met with the principals the Brazilian firm got inquiries from other Filipinos to bring in the flip-flops to the country but having already met with them the new parties were told to deal with Freddy and Anne. Thus despite no written contracts yet.

"Working with Havaianas set the bar for what to look for in our other ventures. Every time we look for brands we do not want to just settle for anyone," Anne states.

The success of Havaianas surprised the couple. In the latter part of 2003, they brought in 4,000 pairs of Havaianas and distributed these only in one outlet—Aura Athletics in Rockwell, owned by Jon Syjuco. The shop is a high-end shop for Yoga and Pilates attire that can be worn as casual gear.

Price tags range between P4,000 to P5,000.

Aura's clientele gobbled up the Havaianas and in no time the first shipment ran out. Jon soon joined the two as a partner.

"The first day we brought it in, we sold out so fast we did not have enough stocks. Every time we sold our supply, we would place an order. We sold a lot but did not have money," recalls Freddy.

Freddy says iBank (recently bought by UnionBank) helped them manage their cash flow and provided them with a loan to open a letter of credit and sent them for daily expenses.

From 4,000 pairs, Freddy says the sales increased tremendously every year—to 16,000 in 2004, 160,000 in 2005 and this year the target is to sell 500,000 pairs of flip-flops. For the first six months, sales have reached 200,000 pairs.

Although these figures appear big, it is insignificant compared with Havaianas sales in Brazil, which has a population of 186 million as of the end of 2005.

Havaianas sells some 150 million pairs of flip-flops every year, with 10 to 15 percent sold in the international market and the rest bought up by Brazilians. Australia sells about two million pairs a year.

Anne says in Brazil "Havaianas is a democratic product—it is bought by the average person to the country's president. It is a socially acceptable footwear."

She says they were lucky to have communicated with the Brazilian firm at a time when they had just gotten a US distributor and were tapping the international market.

Terry S.A., named after Freddy's deceased mother, is busy expanding the business via distributorships in the provinces.

Anne says despite their growth, they have never advertised. They sold their products via word of mouth and tapped public relations, creating events that get featured in the papers.

"When I wear it, I see the product speaks for itself," says Anne.

Jon Syjuco adds, "Once you get them to try it, they know it's a good product."

Is it just a fad?

From page B1

just wanting to be fashionable.

"It's also for the fashionistas, of course," she smiles. "Havaianas are still the best brand of thongs in the market. But in Cagayan de Oro, we have this fish vendor who bought a pair. She was so happy about the product that she recommended it to friends. Now, her friends are buying Havaianas. So, Havaianas is no longer just for status symbol. People are buying it because it is comfortable."

But for Gladys Lalaine Marcial, who runs the boutique "Clothes Bar" at Juna Subdivision here, most people still buy Havaianas because of the name.

"Once you're wearing Havaianas that means, you can afford," says Marcial, who's trying to test-market the US slipper brand "Crocs" in Davao.

"Even in bluebars, where you're not allowed to wear slippers, when they see that



TEST marketing crocs in Davao: Gladys Lalaine Marcial, who runs the Clothes Bar boutique at Juna Subdivision.

you're wearing Havaianas, they'll let you in," she says.

She finds it difficult to sell Crocs in the market, which she considers more durable because people here still prefer fashionable brands.

"They have this mentality that whatever is famous, they buy," she says of the Davao market.

But fashion is least among "Crocs" considerations. This brand of slippers from Boulders, Colorado—which sells at the price range of P1,300 for children's sizes and P1,400 to P3,000 for adults' sizes—is slip-free, comfortable, features a lot of ventilation and is made of material which is odor free.

But people are not yet buying it because they don't appreciate the design and they don't know anything about the brand yet, says Marcial.

"But once you get to know its anatomy, you'll be amazed," Marcial says, adding that people who come to buy them are only those who already know about the product. "They're interested and knowledgeable. They're looking for comfort and they're willing to pay the price."

Havaianas (the Portuguese word for Hawaiians) arrived in the Philippines in 2002, with the Manila-based Terry S.A. Inc., as its exclusive distributor.

Montemayor became its authorized Davao distributor in 2005. In August 2005, when she became its Davao distributor, she got in 3,500 pairs and sold these in 170 time.

"One of the reasons why Havaianas is such a bestseller especially in places like Davao is because you can wear it everywhere," says Montemayor.

She plans to open four more outlets this year in other cities.

Demand is strongest during the summer months of April and May, when people go to the beaches.

Davao sells over 2,000 pairs a month, almost the same level as Cebu, Montemayor says.

A product's measure of success is imitation. Imitation Havaianas, however, are selling at P300 to P500 a pair, which costs just a little bit lower than the original pair. "Why would anyone buy a fake at that price when you can buy a real one at P200 more?" asks Montemayor.

"You can always tell the real one from the fakes," says Scarlet Hao, who runs the brand's outlet Chic Avenue. "The original never breaks and never fades."



HAVAIANAS are necessity: Margarita Montemayor, general manager of Marcial Marketing, the sole distributor of Havaianas in Southern and Western Mindanao.

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ISABELA

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What to consider when planning a US roadshow

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE boom and the surge of Filipino-American buyers have created a "roadshow fever" among the local property developers. What with the Filipino-Americans accounting for 20 percent of all the Asians in the US with an average family income of \$47,000 a year.

According to last year's sales and revenue statistics of one of the top developers, one-third of their business were contributed by the lucrative Filipino-American market—at P52 to \$1—can you blame them?

Some tips from several organizers you may want to consider when planning your roadshow:

• When making travel plans try not to book on budget fares for the domestic sector. These fares will not allow flexibility. If you are unable to leave on your departure date, chances are:

1) You will pay a penalty for

changing dates or departure times.

2) You forfeit not only the way going to your destination but also the trip back.

3) When you need to adjust your appointments/schedules you cannot re-route your ticket—and eventually forfeit that entire leg. Refunds are out of the question.

4) The bottom line is get a good travel agent.

• When going on an extended trip make sure you have enough money on your credit card. In the US, the credit card is king.

• If you max out your credit card, run to the nearest supermarket and purchase a visa debit card. You will get your actual card within 10 days from day of purchase.

• Ship all your materials at least 30 days in advance otherwise courier charges will eat into your budget (you wouldn't want your well-meaning colleague

from accounting to send you a nasty note) not to mention the grief the courier company may bring you.

• If you are to conduct a mailing campaign or send out invitations, make sure you use the standard letter envelopes. If your material is odd-sized, chances are the post office in some cities will charge you 13 cents more or 52 cents a piece. If you want to avail of bulk postage rates, arrange your mailing list by zip code even before you leave for your trip.

• Budget for advertising in the leading newspapers and magazines—there will be instances when you cannot enjoy space for your press releases if you do not advertise.

• Invest on good quality mailing labels, if you are compelled to purchase them here, otherwise you will spend half your time peeling them off (if you like punishment and intend to do this,

make sure you trim your nails real short so peeling them off will be a bit easier).

• Be self-reliant. Even if you and your company are taxpayers, you may not always get assistance from the Philippine Consulate or tourism representatives. An example would be a request for a list of Filipino-American associations. Even if you tell them that you are there to support the government's overseas remittance program through your development, chances are you will be turned down. You will be told that the list is confidential. (They will stand pat on this claim even if you beg and plead. But don't lose hope. A large number of associations on this "confidential list" can be found in the Internet. Log on to TheFilipino.com, where they are listed by city and/or state.)

• When you're invited out, immediately let your hosts know your preference for local food otherwise chances are they will take you to their favorite Filipino restaurant.

• Make sure you or your companion know how to drive—especially in Los Angeles—otherwise getting around will be a challenge.

• Patience is a virtue. When you make a phone call, expect not to speak to a real person—99 percent of the time it will be interactive and you will sweat bullets since phone calls in the US are metered.

Also, you will now need to pay 50 cents for a 411 call (directory information) on the public payphone and most payphones no longer accept coins.

Indeed, the credit card is king!

Secret addresses: The Staybridge Suites, San Bruno, California.

This quaint all-suite hotel is located in San Bruno, approximately

three miles from San Francisco Airport. Great for the family or extended stays, each suite features a spacious furnished living room (including a videocassette player), private bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, enhanced work areas and private voice mail, and free high speed Internet access. Guest services and facilities include laundry facilities, valet service, complimentary breakfast and social hour, a convenience store, swimming pool, exercise room, sports court, barbecue daily maid service, and complimentary grocery shopping service and transportation. The BART station, post office and shopping malls are nearby. Room rates start at \$125.

For feedback, please e-mail: sdg1402@yahoo.com

BUSINESS TRAVEL

No one is too young to go into business

BUILDING AN ENTREPRENEURIA, mindset in the country, and starting with the youth, is the major premise of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE), a local advocacy organization led by its founding trustee and Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Jose A. Concepcion III.

Concepcion said that "PCE aims to promote entrepreneurship nationwide through its Go Negosyo campaign and this time the institution launches together with the Department of Education (DepEd), a Go Negosyo Teen Edition, the first entrepreneurship training and conference slated on July 26-31 at the Teachers Camp,

Baguio." The conference is open to high school students from private and public schools, out-of-school youth, teachers, principals, and all interested in entrepreneurship education.

Also known as Go Negosyo sa Eskwela, the gathering is set to merge education and entrepreneurship in empowering

the students. DepEd Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo said that "the program was developed under The Youth Entrepreneurship and Cooperativism in Schools (YECIS), DepEd's official co-curricular program that serves to support, enhance and enrich the work education and skills training program in the curriculum."

Dreaming big, achieving even bigger

IT IS NOT OFTEN YOU HEAR SOMEONE wax poetic about a love for numbers. But for Mutya Maragnot, it is par for the course. From discussing her fascination with computations to talking about her work as a certified public accountant (CPA), it is apparent that, more than just a keen understanding of the numerical world, Mutya has a passion for it.

The Misamis Occidental native's affinity to numbers was influenced early on by her dad. Also a CPA who worked for the municipal government, Mutya's dad impressed upon her the discipline that comes with the practice of accounting. It also helped that Mutya was a natural at math.

"I always saw myself doing computations and working with numbers," says Mutya, who passed on school spelling bees to join math competitions, and win.

Not surprisingly, Mutya followed in her dad's tracks and majored in accountancy at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) in Iloilo. Although she briefly considered quitting and shifting to a pre-med course, she saw her course through, graduated cum laude, and bagged several accounting quiz trophies and medals along the way.

Deep into the review season for the 2003 national CPA exams, the same drive that fueled her many undergraduate achievements kicked in. "I thought to myself, why settle for just passing the exams? It was then that I promised myself that I would study as hard as possible to get a decent enough score in the board exams," said Mutya.

"Decent" turned out to be a huge understatement. In November 2003, she obtained the highest overall rating among thousands of examinees nationwide and became the first UPV graduate to top the CPA board exams.

What followed was a whirlwind of offers from major local accounting firms, as Mutya became a top pick among the latest batch of new CPAs. "I had the opportunity to visit the different auditing firms," she recalls, "but when I visited Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), I noticed that the environment was very welcoming. The people were very warm and I liked that."

That sealed the deal for Mutya, who was soon working at P&A as an audit junior. Because she passed the board exams in November, which is the calm before the storm for auditing firms, Mutya's introduction to her pro-

fessional career was by way of her first busy season—a five-month stretch of long work hours, tight deadlines, and several clients all anxious to make the schedule for the filing of tax returns. But Mutya wasn't fazed. "I'd like to think of myself as someone who's ready for anything and who's eager to face responsibilities head-on."

She survived her rite of passage and went on to weather two more busy seasons. In 2005, when she was promoted to audit in-charge, she found herself facing heavier responsibilities: supervising fieldwork and reviewing the output of audit juniors; meeting with midlevel client executives; and presenting reports to audit managers.

As engagement in-charge, she was given her own team of CPAs that she had to guide and train. "I had to make sure we all met our deadlines, and I was on the frontline when dealing with demanding clients. It wasn't easy, especially during the busy season when emotions were running high because of sleepless nights and heavy workloads," she admits.

Mutya recounts, "My role as engagement in-charge was vastly different from my previous role as audit junior. And to think this change happened in less than two years. It confirmed what I had hoped for when I chose the field of public accounting: that growth like this can only happen this quickly in public accounting, especially in a young firm like P&A."

For Mutya, what she has learned from being a first-year audit in-charge has definitely been worth all the stress. Balancing technical requirements—made more difficult by newly adopted international accounting standards—and supervising people for the first time gave her an exciting educational experience that she said she could have gotten only from external audit work.

"In the three years I've been with P&A, I've dealt with people from all walks of life, and that has helped make me a better professional," says Mutya. In her present assignment, she also gets to "teach" junior auditors a thing or two. "I emphasize to them the importance of discipline and respect and passion for the work. If you're passionate about your job, you can excel in it."

Judging by her excellent performance at P&A, she certainly seems to have a genuine passion for what she does.



MUTYA Maragnot (seated) with her fellow in-charges at P&A (from left): Ruel Guzman, Tessa Petingay, Dennis Vilamin, Lesly Japlit and Jobee Angeles



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Escape to a championship-level golf haven close to home. At the Villamor golf course, you can tee off at your leisure. Or simply enjoy the sight of 60 hectares of green landscapes, pristine white sand and rows of narra, mango and pine trees.

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Property Holdings, Inc.



The success stories on the show prove that the madeover guys get the job, the look and the girl they want

I'M GOING TO NAME MY daughter G.orienta," said Car Kressley before the huge crowd at the G.orienta Activity Center in Makati last Friday.

With the other stars of America's hit makeover reality TV show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" who were on a hiatus after wrapping up production of their 100th episode, the wild and witty Kressley delighted throngs of fans during the three-day meet-and-greet sponsored by the Aya-a Malls with Bench.

At our brief one-on-one interviews at the presidential suite of the Makati Shangri-La, the Fab Five—style savant Kressley, grooming guru Kyan Douglas, design doctor Thom Filicia, culture vulture Ja Rodriguez and food-and-wine connoisseur Ted Allen—were as upfront and hilarious as they are on the show. They poked fun at one another, barged in on each other's appointed interview quarters, and let flow the chemistry that has fueled the show's rise to the top.

Straight from their queer little hearts, they dished on their dating histories (yes, they all dated girls) and recalled their "coming out" to their families. And they all agreed the idea of dating any of the cast-mates was too "icky."

Playful and funny as they were, they did have a serious side (well, maybe not all of them, as you can always count on the flamboyant Kressley to stick out like a sore thumb), especially when the subject of same-sex marriage was brought up.

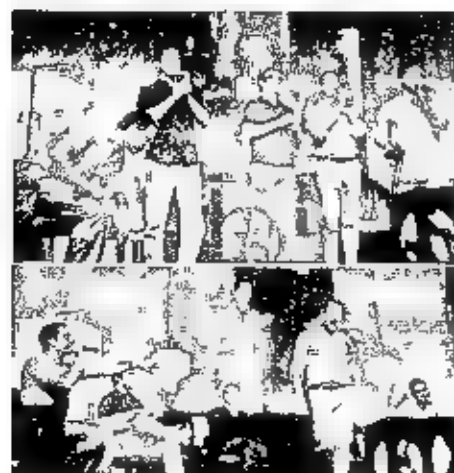
Douglas and Filicia were second-timers in the country, having been invited by the Aya-a Malls to regale mall-goers with quick makeovers in June last year. The two said they brought back to the "Queer Eye" set such good news about the Philippines that the rest were persuaded to come along on this visit.

No one of the others believed how much the Filipino audience adored them until they showed up at the Greenbelt and G.orienta malls and A. Abang Town Center, and were promptly mobbed by autograph-seeking fans—a sweet mix of those who wore Prada and those who couldn't afford Prada but were cable TV subscribers just the same (the show is aired exclusively on ETC at 9 p.m. every Monday).

Fifteen minutes with each one were much too short to get as up close and personal with the Fab Five as our INQUIRER mascot Guyito did, as you will see on the succeeding pages. And 100 episodes are just too darn few to make-over millions of hapless, style-deficient straight guys.

But if Kressley is to be believed, the Fab Five are not saying goodbye just yet. "We have not closed up shop as of yet," said Kressley. "If they want more episodes, we'd be happy to give them more."

Read on and find out about the wit, warmth, mirth and style that the Fab Five brought with them to get the sun to shine in stormy Manila.



THE FAB Five, none of them needing a makeover, have fun with the G.orienta mall's live audience.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUANO PUNZALAN

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Carson KRESSLEY



IS IT TRUE YOU WENT PARTYING THIS morning?

God, no! We flew in this morning and we got lucky because we had a tailwind or something and we didn't have to stop in Guam. We love Guam but we'd rather be here. We got in at 4 and we got to the hotel, the Glorietta Shangri-La, which we love to death. Look at this place! I went to the gym then I went to the pool and we started our press conference. No rock-star stuff yet but I'm sure I'll tear up the room and stay up all night like I usually do.

Are there any clashes of egos?

Gosh, no. Right, Michael (to Michael Filicia, the Fab Five manager)? No, if we really didn't get along, five gay men, we'd have clawed each other's eyes out, pulled each other's hair a long time ago. We all genuinely enjoy each other's company and have fun. We've been on hiatus for a couple of weeks, and going to the airport I was so excited to see everybody. It felt like one of those, like, you've been off the air for five years and you do one of those reunion episodes, and it's only been three weeks, and I was so excited to see these people.

Who would you date among the four guys?

Oh, gosh! I'll try to remember who has the biggest package. (Laughter) That's always a weird question because we've been so close for the past four years, and we've had so many unique experiences together that we really feel like family. So just the thought of being romantic with any of them makes me throw up a little (rolls eyes). It's kinda icky... If I were interested, I would be a lucky guy to be involved with any of them since each of them is special and wonderful.

Seriously?

(Emphatic) Seriously! I mean, I'm the cutest, but.

You said on "Oprah" you came out to your mom only two weeks before the show aired.

Yeah, isn't that something? You think she would've known!

Did you ever date a girl before that?

I did, but we usually went to the mall and bought shoes. (Laughter)

So how many pairs of shoes do you have?

I say, hundreds, which, here in the Philippines, that's not a lot!

Are you seeing anyone special now?

No, I'm single, a.k.a. painfully alone. Do you know anybody?

A lot!

Really? Let's work on that! I'd love a guy with a huge 401K! (Laughter)

What's your view on same-sex marriage?

I'm more concerned with same-sex divorce. (Laughter) I don't wanna get stuck with someone forever! (Laughter) I think maybe marriage is the wrong word to use. But when it all boils down, it's a human rights issue, and gay people and straight people, they should have the same rights. Whether you're gay or straight, with a

Did you ever date a girl before? I did, but we usually went to the mall and bought shoes. (Laughter)

physical disability, your skin's a different color, it's absurd in this age to not be aware and be concerned of the inequity in rights.

But if you ever get married, what would you wear?

Oh, God! You're supposed to wear white if you're virginal, so I guess I'll wear brown! (Laughter) Or really dark navy.

Or something like that (Carson's wearing a zebra-print shirt)?

Yeah! This is good because it's like good and evil. You're like an angel or a devil. I'm a Scorpio, so you know.

How do you think the show helped in advancing the cause of the gay movement?

It's interesting because when we started doing the show, none of us really thought of it as having any sort of political agenda. And I think the real power from it and the real power that people obtain in their life is that there's great power and freedom in being yourself and expressing who you are. I think the beauty of our show is that unknowingly we got to do that ourselves and express ourselves and be true to ourselves and be honest and be out. And the guys that we make over, while they go through the process of being on the show, they also show their true colors. They also get in touch with who they really are and let go of their fear and just express themselves.

Has it ever happened that you made over someone who's not really straight?

There were a few I've wondered about but they haven't come out yet. (Laughter)

What do you think of guys who still think that fussing about their looks is a little too gay?

I think when guys are worried about caring too much about their looks, caring too much about their hair and they're afraid that they'll be perceived to be gay. Hopefully there'll be a day in our society when being perceived to be gay isn't a bad, terrible thing. The great thing about our show is that it gives permission to care about it and it is a good thing to care about how you look and it's a good thing to feel good about how you look. The success stories on our show prove that guys get the jobs that they want, they get the look that they want and they get the girl. There's nothing wrong with caring about yourself.

Don't you think it also has something to do with the attitude of women? They don't want their boyfriends to look better than them.

Maybe, yeah! If your boyfriend spends more time with his hair than you do, it could be a warning sign. (Laughter)

You graduated magna cum laude and you were also a frat guy.

Yeah, I don't even know what magna cum laude means! (Laughter) It sounds kinda dirty to me. Yeah, but I was a very good student. But you know what, I've always been a little bit charming, so maybe I got better grades because I'd stay after class and say, "Oh, my God! Professor, I love your shoes! Those are fantastic! How did I do in the test?"

"A minus." "Oh, we can do better than that, can we? How about an A-plus?" Gotcha! (Laughter)

Yes, I was in a fraternity and that was crazy! There were a lot of guys with their shirts off all the time.

Did they know that you were...?

Did they know? (Emphatic) Oh, hi! I think they had to! It wasn't official, though.

(Whisper) Did you ever get it off with a frat guy?

Oh, my God! (Laughter) Is this for Filipino readers? (Laughter) No, I wish I had. It would've been like an adult feature. But you know, I'm not dead yet! (Laughter)

Is it harder to find a date now that you're famous?

It's not harder to find a date but I think it's harder to keep one. Because you meet a lot of people and they just wanna hang out with you, and that's wonderful because I love people. But when you're on a date, you've just finished your appetizer and he says, "My girlfriend loves your show!" I'm about to choke on my ciantral! (Laughter) Sometimes it does pose a problem. People ask if it's all worth it, and it really is because people are wonderful and I love people. I'm in the people business and I love it.

Can you tell us more about your clothing line?

Yes! I can't really give you the particulars because the actual legal paper work is still going back and forth. But it will debut this fall with a major American retailer, probably the biggest American retailer. It's men's and women's, about 75 percent women, 25 percent men. It has accessories, leather goods, handbags. It's a full line and it's been incredible fun to actually provide the consumer with things that people, I think, will really need and

things that will make people feel great.

How long has this been in the works? Probably about a year. It takes a long time to make a shirt. Who knew? (Laughter)

It's called Perfect?

Yes.

Do you know how much the pieces would cost? Is it high-end?

Perfection comes at a price, my love! But, no, it's definitely a moderately priced line because I'm a firm believer that looking good doesn't have to cost a lot of money. When it's quality fabric and it's a good fit, it's not about prestige, it's about looking good and feeling good. And I think this clothing line will do that and it doesn't have to be expensive. People come up and say, "I love that top! Is that Gucci?" because it's worth \$500. It's not about that. People will say that top looks good on you because the fit is great and the fabric is beautiful and the color works. It doesn't matter what's on the label.

What do you think of the spin-offs of your show?

I think it's very flattering. I don't want to say imitation, but imitation is a serious form of flattery. We had a very successful franchise, and any type of successful franchise will mean a spin-off. There's Polo Jeans for Ralph Lauren. Marc Jacobs works for Louis Vuitton and he also has his own line. It's a natural progression in the business.

Did you ever watch those shows?

Yeah, I've seen them. I think the cast was great. But I'm a firm believer that there's nothing like the original.

Who would you make over among the four guys?

Hmmm... I really don't think any of them need it because we spend so much time together that we're continually making over each other. Like I said in the press conference earlier, Thom has helped me so much with my apartment, Kyan gives me tips on my hair and I've got them to dress much better and taught them. (Emphatic) You should've seen them when they first arrived! I mean... (Laughter) They all have great personal style and we just kind of influenced each other.

Who has helped you the most?

Oh, gosh, I don't know. I would probably say Thom because that was the area where I needed the most help. (Jai yells "Traitor!" from the other room.) No, I love you! (Laughter) I'm so culturally advanced! Dressing your body is one thing but dressing your home is so much more three-dimensional and so much more prominent, and it really affects your mood. It's really an art to be able to do that.

Is there like a mother hen among you?

(Michael. He's the mother hen.) Yes, just because I'm naturally bossy. Don't you think?

Any advice to straight Filipino men?

Don't do your hair like this (shows the cover of a society magazine). (Laughter) You'll never get a woman if you do this. But these men (gets another copy of the magazine), they look good. Look at them.

But those are women!

These are women? (Laughter) It's hard to tell anymore since this metrosexual thing took off.

Thom FILICIA



WHAT'S YOUR STAND ON SAME SEX marriages?

I think there are gay families out there that would greatly benefit from the opportunities married couples enjoy. I think marriage has become a really difficult word—it has become problematic for gay families with children but I think it will happen and I hope it happens sooner than later because I think it's really important. I know there are a lot of families that would really benefit from there. It should be there but it's not. But things are changing.

If you had to date someone from the Fab Five, who would it be?

Oh my goodness. Let's see. Carson I would date because he's hysterically funny. Jai because he's probably the most low-maintenance. Kyan I would date because he's probably my partner in crime. Ted I would date because he's a great cook. (Laughs)

Who would be last on your list?

Me. I would never date me. Because I

Who would be last on your date list? Me. I would never date me. Because I would annoy myself

would annoy myself

Have you ever dated a girl?

I have. My girlfriend in college I dated for three years. I had six girl friends throughout high school and college.

How did you come out?

I came out right after I graduated from college.

But when did you realize that you were gay?

I thought about it when I was in middle school. But I didn't really understand it, I didn't know what it meant. At that age and at that time, it was different. You didn't even know that that was really an option. I thought maybe everybody thought what I was thinking. When I was a little older, I realized that that was something different. I came out when I graduated from college and told my parents about a year later. For me it was really about making a decision.

Do you find it harder to date now?

I have a boyfriend. We've been together for two and a half years. His name's Greg. And I have a dog, his name's Paco. It's like...

...A family.

Yeah.

Is your dog housebroken?

He's definitely housebroken. He'd make mistakes from time to time except I don't think they're mistakes, I think he'd get mad at me. Like right now, because I'm not with him, he's probably peeing on something in my house. But tomorrow he'll be going to the country, he'll be at the lake.

Did you ever do a makeover on a guy who turned out not to be straight?

No. We thought a couple of them might not be but we asked them, "Are you gay or straight?" And they always say straight. So we believe them. (Rolls eyes.)

Who's the funniest among all of you?

I think we're all pretty funny. I think we're funniest when we're not trying to be funny.

Who's the most vain?

Kyan.

Who's the most serious?

Ted.

Temperamental?

Carson.

Talkative?

Me. (Laughter)

In terms of interior design, who do you think needs the most help?

Jai.

How do you feel about "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy?"

I think it's... very different from our show. (Laughter)

I agree. What was designing Jennifer Lopez' and Marc Anthony's house like?

It was really helping them create their first home as opposed to just styling their interiors. I loved it.

Was it easy to work with them?

I think celebrities in general, when you're dealing with a person who's very busy, there are definitely opinions. There's really no such thing as an easy job but I think that it came out very well.

What establishments do you remember for having good interior design in the Philippines?

Last time I was here, we had lunch at a house—I don't know where it was—but it was really beautiful. I went to a club called Embassy and it was really beautiful. And we went to the American embassy which was really beautiful. And I've seen some condominiums that were being built. And I think the Shangri-La is a great hotel, run really, really well. And the malls are gorgeous.

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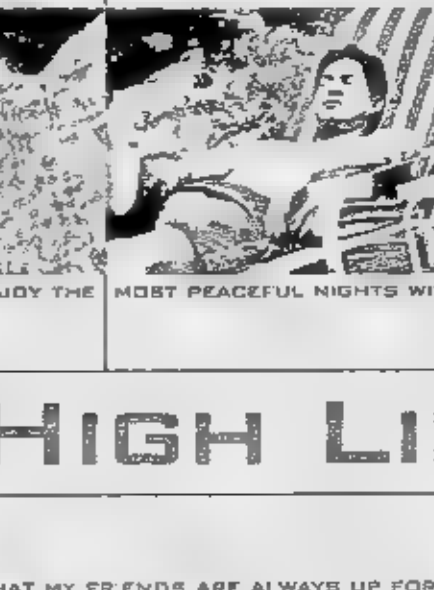
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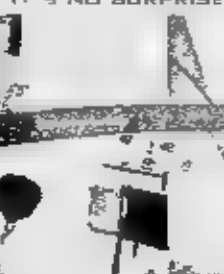
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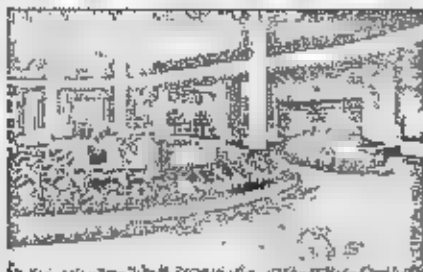
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There will surely be more technological conveniences to look forward to. Like adding to the assurance of standard measures in the building system: security points from the parking gates to the elevators, access buttons in the units for assistance, a biometric reader for back-of-the-house access. With the track record of Ayala Land in anticipating the needs of its residents and pioneering changes for their comfort and convenience, who knows just what living in the center of the city may bring? As you and your family's needs grow, just ask and be ready to be accommodated. At The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Land can work to widen your universe of high life.

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Ted ALLEN



I BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP FOR 10 YEARS NOW?

Actually, 13. We measure that from our first date. So our first date was St. Patrick's Day 1993.

St. Patrick's Day is what?

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday celebrating Irish Americans, Irish people. It happens in March or April. You don't do St. Patrick's Day in the Philippines?

No, no.

Oh! It's just really an excuse to drink a lot!

What's your view on same-sex marriage?

My view on same-sex marriage is that gay and lesbian relationships are exactly as meaningful and profound and valuable as straight relationships and therefore I believe that I deserve exactly the same privileges from the state institution that anybody in the United States has. And for anyone to deny me that is disgusting.

That having been said, I'm talking about the United States. It's different in every country. This has nothing to do with anybody's religion. This has to do with I live in a diverse, democratic, elected nation in which... You know, I pay taxes, I deserve the same privileges. When you're married in the United States there are like 1,000 privileges that you get. Whether it's the right to inherit from your spouse when they pass away, or the right to visit your partner when he's sick in the hospital, those rights aren't guaranteed when you're not married. So you can see that it makes me very upset.

That having been said, the gay marriage issue is one of the worst things to happen to gay people in the United States in a long, long time, because it happened before the culture was ready for it and gay marriage is now being exploited in a really disgusting way by far-right politicians like the current occupant of our White House. (Laughter)

And it played a major role in getting him elected the last time he got elected—which is the only time he was elected. (Laughter)

And it's really sad that the gay issue came up when it did because it scared people, and politicians are exploiting that fear and using that to drive a wedge between people and, rather than talking about ways to make our country better and ways to make the world better, they waste all this time dividing people over this issue.

What would've been best, we probably should've done it in steps. We probably should've started with civil unions and then moved on to marriage. But the issue came up in Massachusetts Supreme Court and it was thrust upon the whole country—I'm babbling but I'll stop soon—(Laughter)

So what's your boyfriend like?

His name is Barry Rice. Barry's very patient. He's put up with me for a very long time. He is an interior designer and he was a journalism professor. He got tenure at a university in Chicago and then promptly quit so he could move to New York so we could do "Queer Eye." So, he loves me very much and I love him very much.

Does he cook?

He's a terrific cook. He's more of a baker. He loves to cook, but he'd rather have me

cook. So he makes cookies and pies.

Okay. He does all the desserts.

Yeah, he's better at desserts than I am. That's his claim to fame. He's a great-looking guy with great blue eyes. He's actually coming here. He's joining me here tomorrow (Friday).

Ooh, that's cool.

Tomorrow night, we're going to see the Philippines. And we're going to travel to Vietnam and Thailand.

Did you ever date a girl?

Yeah, I did. I came out a little late. I didn't come out officially until I was 26, which is really late these days.

I didn't kinda figure out that I was gay until my early 20s, which sounds stupid, especially to kids now. But I grew up in a conservative state in the midwest of the United States where it was not okay to be gay. There were no out gay actors, politicians, baseball players, nobody. The only gay images you saw in our culture were drag queens and people in strange leather outfits in the San Francisco Gay Pride parade. And all those people are great!

You know, we are a crazy, weird group of people in a lot of ways, but when you're growing up in Indiana, that doesn't look like you. Unless you are a drag queen or an aspiring leather person. And I just wasn't. Role models matter a lot. So that's one of the reasons that it's so exciting to be out and gay on television. And we get a lot of letters from young gay people who tell us that it helps make them feel like they have things to look forward to, whether they want to be a drag queen or they want to be something else—an accountant... I don't know. (Laughter)

In "Queer Eye," do you have clashes of egos?

No, we all know who has the big ego! (Laughter) We don't need to clash about it. I think the best way to characterize it is that we're like brothers and so you fight a little bit, but we have a really interesting relationship with each other where, you know, each of the five of us has irritated the rest at one time or the other and you get over it.

How do you get over that?

Well, let's see. Sometimes, it's somebody jumping in front of you so they can be on camera and sometimes the way to deal with that is grab them by the shoulder and physically throw them to the ground! (Laughter) And then you're okay.

But I think mostly, you know, they're excited. I mean, you could see if you saw the five of us down stairs, everybody's mind's going blah blah blah! Everybody's got something they wanna say and they wanna be sure they have the chance to say it. Five people is a lot of people to have on a TV show like this. We try... I mean, we all love each other and respect each other a lot, it's kinda hard to hold back and let everybody get their little jabs in.

But are there rivalries?

I don't feel like we have any kind of rivalry because the five of us each has separate categories to work in, which, thank God, I mean, you know, if we had two food people or two fashion people, it could really get ugly.

And everyone's really respectful of those boundaries. I mean, Thom, for example, is a

Actually, the biggest problem that I have is they're always eating the food before I have the chance to... 'No, that's a prop! That's not your dinner, Thom.'

great cook. He's a great entertainer, he entertains all the time. Actually, he knows how to cook, I think, but he doesn't really do it. He just makes drinks.

Do you bring food to the set? Do you cook for the group when you tape?

Actually, more often than not, it's Barry who makes peanut-butter cookies and I bring them to the set so we don't eat them all ourselves and get really fat. (Laughter) But I often cook on the show. Almost every episode, I cook on the show. Actually, the biggest problem that I have is they're always eating the food before I have the chance to... "No, that's a prop! That's not your dinner, Thom."

Among the four guys, who would you date?

None of them. That's like asking me, which one of my brothers would I date. It's not like that... I've seen most of them naked, and all of them nearly naked. And it's, um, it's very much like a fraternal relationship that way. I know too much about them to want to date any of them! (Laughter)

Are they all in relationships right now as well?

All of them, except Carson and Jay who are single. So if this comes out while we're still in the Philippines, it's rooms 3907 and 3905. (Laughter)

Who do you think among them needs help in the kitchen department?

Um, well... everybody's so different and, you know, Jay is 27 and single and dating and nobody



wants to cook when they live by themselves, unless they're cooking for their date. So I wouldn't even expect him to be interested in that.

Thom is so busy. He loves entertaining, he loves having people over, he has parties all the time and he has a weekend house, he's always throwing parties, but there are other people in his life that are better suited to cooking.

Carson, I think, makes a great peach cobbler. And I think he might cook one other thing, but he's just not that interested in it. Kyan, I don't know if he cooks.

Is it hard to teach straight guys about winning and dining?

Some more than others. I mean, there are a lot of straight guys who are terrific cooks and who are very romantic and who understand that dating or special nights with your wife is about her and making her feel special and doing little romantic things, like flowers and all the obvious stuff. Or crazy, surprising stuff like, what she's into.

That said, I mean, we've had a couple of guys in the show where all I asked him to do was make... I literally had an episode where I asked the guy to make a gin and tonic. And he ruined it. It's pretty self-explanatory. It's gin and tonic and ice, lime—how do you screw that up? (Laughter) But we also had an episode where I had a guy make mole, which is a Mexican sauce from the Oaxacan region and it has, like, 75 ingredients. It's really difficult to make. I mean, that was a little unreasonable.

What's your favorite cuisine?

I like different kinds of food. My first choice would probably be Italian, but when I say that I don't mean any particular dishes. I mean the idea of Italian food, which is very simple, very fresh, everything natural, lots of herbs, lots of tomatoes, lots of fresh seafood, olive oil. Oh, you know.

But the great cuisines of the world are clearly French and Chinese. We're actually very excited to go to Vietnam because the food in Vietnam is so unbelievable, we're so excited. Thai food is unbelievable. But it's probably French, Italian... and a sort of Pan-Asia, but it's a lot of that. And there are some exciting foods coming out of South America.

Are you an adventurous eater?

To a certain point. I actually love a lot of different food.

What's the weirdest thing you've eaten?

You know what, I'm not very interested in eating things like organs or insects. (Laughter) And a lot of people try to be brave and say they love to eat weird stuff like that. Usually, that's food you eat because you have no other choice. Now, I don't want to insult anybody.

There are probably a lot of food that are traditional in the Philippines, but there are probably a lot of food that are traditional in America that would seem very strange to people here, and so, one of the things I love about food is that you could learn so much about other cultures, just like eating, without even traveling. One of the things I love about traveling is finding amazing food. I can't wait to eat myself silly in the Philippines.

Kyan DOUGLAS



The idea of dating one of the (Fab) guys is like dating a sibling. It's like, yuck! (Laughs)

HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO GROOM A straight guy?

It all depends on the straight guy, doesn't it? (Laughs)

You can make them look good but it's a little bit hard how to make them act good.

Right! That's a great point. And that's often the source of humor on the show. When we're watching a guy get ready. He may pull his looks together but he'd say something completely awkward or inappropriate on a date, for example. But I think it depends on a guy.

You made a really good point that it is often easier to transform somebody on the outside. Inside can sometimes take a little bit longer. But I will say that it has been in my experience that to become a better person or to become a person you always knew you could be, sometimes it's easier to start by changing the way that you look to help that inner change happen. Does that make sense? Sometimes it's good to work on the outside first.

What are your views on same-sex marriage?

All human beings have the same right as all other human beings, and that includes gay people who want to be in a relation-

ship. I think it's very important that we get to a place where we treat each other with a little bit more respect, a little bit more kindness, a little bit more compassion, a little bit more understanding.

I think gay couples who are committed to one another should have the same civil and legal protection that straight people have. My partner can have my social security benefit when I die, if I die my apartment goes to him and not my parents—although I love my parents—but you know, just the basic rights to...

Do you see yourself getting married?

Definitely. I do see myself getting married. I'm actually getting married to my partner of almost three years. We're getting married in May next year.

What are you gonna wear?

(Laughs) That's a good question. I haven't thought about that! I love that. No one has asked me that yet. (Laughs) That's a normal question: "What are you gonna wear?" The first question is usually, "What does that mean, you getting married?" Which is a fair enough question. But I like your question! (Laughs)

I don't know yet. I've been worried about what it means I haven't thought about what I'm gonna wear! (Laughs) I think we're both very down-to-earth people and we both love the outdoors and nature so, weather permitting, it will be an outdoor wedding.

Like a garden wedding?

Yeah! It will be informal.

Who's the best man?

I don't know! (Smiles) I don't know if we'll follow that exact formula. In some ways it's obviously nontraditional. I think we're sort of nontraditional people, so even if we were a man and a woman, it would still be a nontraditional wedding. It will be very simple, you know, family and close friends.

Will the ceremony be in the United States?

It will be in the US. By our laws it won't be a legal marriage, unfortunately. But I do believe that as important as it is for us to have whole liberty, we as a country in the United States have to work that out at some point. I do believe that, first and foremost, marriage as such is a commitment from one soul to another, a spiritual union before it's a legal union.

Have you always been spiritual?

I have always been spiritual. Yeah.

What does your boyfriend do?

He does public relations. He has his own public relations company.

Among the four cast members, who do you see yourself dating?

If I had to, right? Who would I date. (Whispers) Oh, I don't know! I'll play the game if I have to answer any questions, but I have to say, before I answer the question, that the idea of dating one of those guys is like dating a sibling. It's like, yuck! (Laughs) But in the spirit of the question, if I had to date one of the guys who would it be, probably Ted.

Why Ted?

I think Ted is probably the sanest among them and he can cook. He's got a good head on his shoulder. He has also proven that he can be in a long-term relationship because he has been dating somebody for 10 years, so my money's on Ted. (Laughs)

Have you ever dated a girl?

I've dated a lot of girls in high school and college.

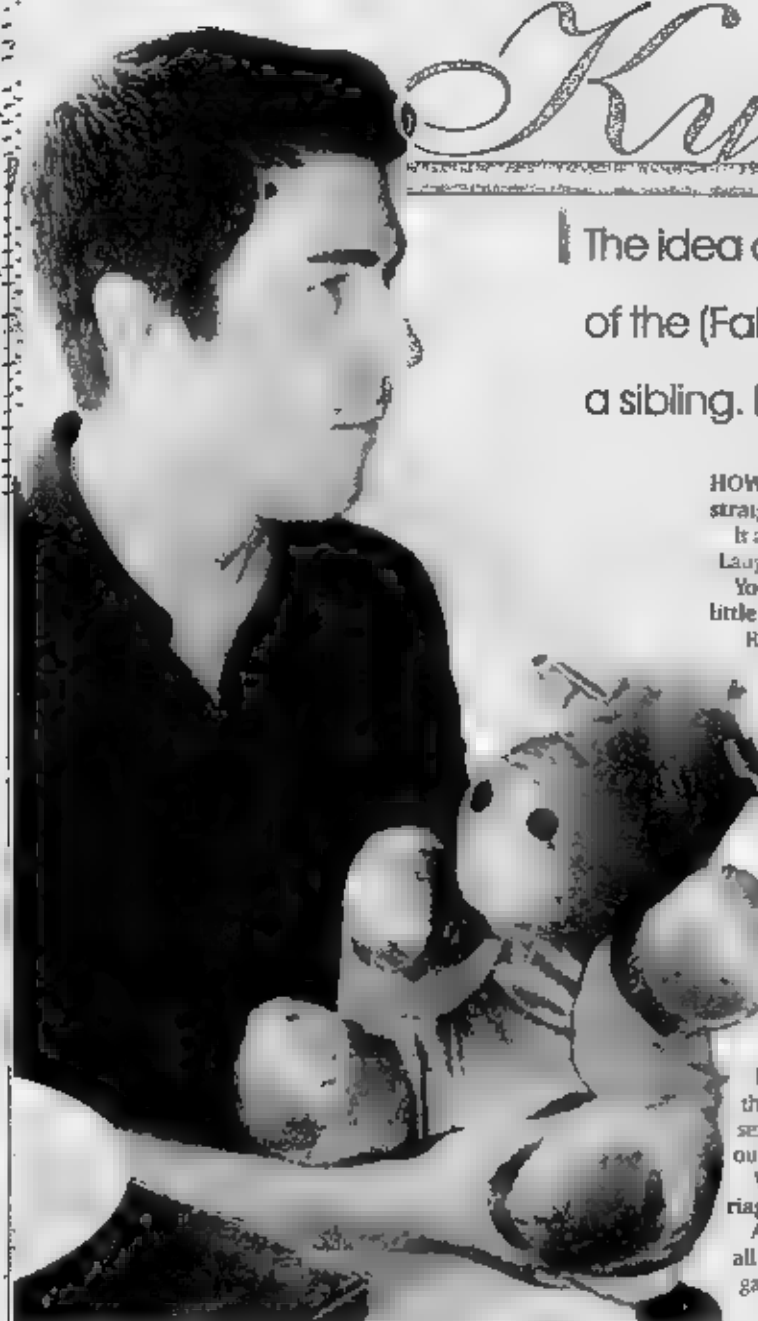
When did you come out?

When I was 20.

Prior to that they had no clue?

I think they had a clue, yeah. I remember

KYAN/CS



Fai RODRIGUEZ



WHEN YOU GO TO A PARTY, NOW that you're famous, do you feel like you always have to be cheerful and witty like you are on the show?

I think I try to be very polite and fun with everyone. I don't want to let them down, you know. But I'm very relaxed and normal. And if you didn't recognize me, you wouldn't know I'm on a TV show. I love dancing so I go to clubs a lot, and when I go to straight clubs, it's like, a lot of times people would say, "Isn't that the guy from...?" But they won't say, you know.

You played Angel in Canada and Broadway productions of "Rent." How was it like playing the part on Broadway?

It was fantastic for me because I'd lost my aunt, my cousin, when I was 16 to AIDS, so playing a character that chose to stay alive and be a positive person, I think that was really fantastic. The first time I saw "Rent," I sat on the front row of the stage. I've been such a fan of the musical and suddenly there I was playing the role and looking down at the seat I once filled.

Did you get to play with any of the original actors?

Yes, yes. I did the show with Taye Diggs, Wilson Heredia... The original Angel, I understudied him for a while.

You also did Carmen Ghia in "The Producers" on Broadway, right?

Yeah. It was really fun. I think that, you know, with Carmen Ghia, you couldn't go far enough. They kept saying, go further, be funnier, be over-the-top! It's really fantastic to have the director say, "Go, you

When I first met them,

I was most attracted to Thom and Kyan.

But that went away.

(Laughter)

You get to know them

and you realize it's not going to work

could be even campier! Have fun, be really quick and witty!" And, you know, it takes time. In a Mel Brooks comedy it's all about the big pauses that he has. That's what creates the joke, and I think learning that was interesting.

Angel and Ghia are both transvestite characters. So, what was it like with your parents when you played these roles?

It was really rough for them in the beginning, but they got a taste of some of the other things I did. On a lot of the other television work I've done, I've been straight. I've done two TV soaps, and in one I had a baby and a wife. I also did a Broadway show called "Spinning Into Butter" where I played an inner city student.

Is that the one with Hope Davis?

Yes, yes, yes. Sarah Jessica Parker has just bought the movie rights! So that was really a fun opportunity. But, yeah, I don't really want to put on a dress anytime soon. I think I've kind of done it. I've been there.

You also have this cabaret show. What songs do you sing there?

Pop rock, Top 40s, musical theater. I would start with "Nature Boy" and then I would go right into "Lady Marmalade" and I would have three girls in corsets and top hats and they would sing "Lady Marmalade" with me. I would do big numbers like that and, you know, no one was doing that live 'cause these songs were always lip-synched. It was like doing a Broadway show.

What do you think of gay marriage?

I think I'd just like to get a date before I even go there! (Laughter) The minute I get a date, then I could consider that.

Do you find it hard to get a date?

I do, I really do. Sincerely.

Is it because, you know, when you're with a guy, the guy might think you'd critique him or try to make him over?

Yeah, or that he'd think you're better than him because on the show, it is our job to critique. And we do it in a funny way because we know that that's what's going to make the show funny. But, you know, we don't live that way. We all wear jeans and T-shirts all the time. We're normal, we dress up when we have to dress up, we live life very normally. But I feel very connected to the straight guys we make over because I grew up in Long Island and certainly the kind of upbringing that I had wasn't anything posh or sophisticated. It wasn't really until after I left Long Island and started a life of my own that I sort of familiarized myself with etiquette and the city and pop culture. When people ask my mom, "How did you teach him culture?" she says all the time, "I don't know, I guess he learned it all on his own."

Your published Apple iPod playlist is heavily pop and R&B. No show tunes?

I know! (Laughs) I'm not really a show tunes kind of guy, unless I'm doing a show or prepping for a show, then I become addicted

to them. What's in my iPod now? "Nothing" from "A Chorus Line." I've been listening to it for three weeks straight, and I thought it'd be funny if I sang it in my cabaret show.

It's sung by a Puerto Rican girl. Yeah! Puerto Rican, too! "They don't have bobsleds in San Juan!" (Laughter) I'm Puerto Rican, but I was born in the States, in Long Island. My best friend, though, is Filipino.

Your best friend's Filipino?

Yes, his name is Enrico Rodriguez and he did the show "Zanna, Don't!" with me. "Zanna, Don't!" Is that a play on "Xanadu?"

No! (Laughter) But I am doing a reading of the musical version of "Xanadu" next week. They're making it into a musical!

What is it with gay people and culture? Is it a fair or valid assumption to say that gay people know a bit more about culture than ordinary men?

We just tend to be more cutting-edge, we want to know everything that's cool. A lot of us grew up being made to feel that being gay wasn't the cool thing. So guys end up being a bit more sensitive, a bit more "in touch." We always have to be on top of what's cool, what's hip, what's hot, what's trendy, and certainly the attraction to theater and stuff and living life visually through this fantasy world is rooted in that.

Those larger than life images.

Yeah, those big divas—Bette Midler, Liza Minnelli, Barbra Streisand—the gorgeous perfection, the iconic woman, whether that's her voice or her look.

Culture is a very amorphous term. What does it comprise?

When I first got on the show, they told me I was going to be the nightlife expert, and I was like, "What?" So I don't think they even knew what they wanted with the "culture" term. Let's keep it broad, they said, that way you could do everything. And in the show, what it really ended up meaning for me was, you need to help these guys in ways that are non-physical. Like, Carson and Ted and Kyan and Tom deal with how they look and what they do. Now, we have to figure out what's going on inside because you might be wearing all these clothes, but unless you know how to have the confidence, it's useless. So culture is like a journey. To make someone cultured, that's going to take a while, certainly longer than the three days I'd spend with him. So it's like putting them in the right path to keep exploring new things, to look outside the box, to try things they've always wanted to try but maybe feel a bit intimidated to try. You know, open doors. Carson said that for a lot of these guys, you can't really blame them because they just haven't been exposed to these things. And once they're given the knowledge, they're like, "Oh, my God, I totally like that, I just didn't know it existed."

So, in terms of culture, what are the basics that men have to know in order to be considered "culturally literate?"

I think that we live in such a casual society. Chivalry has kind of gone out the door. Politeness is a good thing, "please" and "thank you"

can go a long way. Etiquette counts, even just the basic stuff that we take for granted every day. You know, certainly paying attention to the woman in your life a little more attentively than you think you do—that is generally a good idea. Also, just being an attentive person, just being in touch with what's happening right now in front of you. A lot of people speed through life, they don't even realize the little things and how those little things in life can affect them. Just be present and get in touch with who you are.

There are women who are attracted to rough, rugged men...

Present! (Laughter)

...What do you say to them?

I think everyone wants the bad boy, but most of them will realize it's just kind of a thrill. You know, I'm not going to marry the bad boy, but I will enjoy flirting with him. Women usually end up with the good guy.

There's this rumor that you're actually straight. How do you respond to that?

I'm not straight! (Laughter) But I'm not going to say that I've never dated a girl.

Who among your four co-stars would you date?

Oh my God, none of them. (Laughter) Is that honest enough for you? You know, there's a lot to consider. First of all, they're 10 years older, and that's a big difference. I usually don't date someone that older than me, because I don't want to hear them say, "Oh, you'll understand in a couple of years." I'd rather grow with someone. Plus, I know them too well to even think about it. When I first met them, I was most attracted to Thom and Kyan. But that went away. (Laughter) You get to know them and you realize it's not going to work. They're very established and I still feel very much like an adolescent, you know, still growing up. But it's like I've grown up so much in the past three years, specifically.

Do you ever have clashes with anyone in your group?

Everyone likes me and everyone generally gets along with me. I'm the peace-keeper!

At one point, you actually expressed some misgivings about the fact that you couldn't do much of what you wanted given the constraints of the show. Do you still feel the same way?

Yeah, absolutely. I'm actually kinda glad that we're on hiatus now because it gives me the opportunity to do the stuff that I want to do. The thing about the other guys, this is really what they do. These are really their passions. I don't want to wake up in the morning thinking, "God, who can I teach or what book do I recommend using today?" It's not my passion. My passion is entertaining and performing, and in many ways the show has allowed me to do that. But in a public forum with an audience, that's where I feel most at home.

Would you ever date an uncultured guy?

If you get me a date, I'd be very happy to! (Laughter)

Kyan Douglas

From page C4

being maybe 18 and my mother asking if I was gay. And I denied it. But she asked because she knew.

Is it more difficult being the only male sibling?

I guess so, yeah. I didn't think about it too much, but I guess that's true in terms of carrying on the family name. But at the end of the day, family name is great but it's not the most important.

What was that day like?

I took my mother out on a picnic. I mean, it was like the gayest thing in the world! I was coming out. I had to take her out. (Laughs) We had, like, croissants, fruit and yogurt, wine... We had a picnic by the lake. I said, "Let's go out. I have something to tell you."

How did you go from philosophy and healing art courses to grooming?

That's a good question. Umm, I guess the answer to that is the same, sort of... I sort of believe that we all have this inner voice inside of us. It tells you what to do; it tells you what your passions are, where to take the next step in your life. That sort of an inner voice, for lack of a better word, is what got me into the healing arts, for example.

But with that same voice it got me interested in Christian work or beauty act sector for what it's like for my sort of path. I've learned to listen to that little voice. "Go to beauty school." "Yeah?" (Laughter) So that's what I did. Grooming and beauty—it's really the same thing.

Do you try the products that you recommend on the show?

I do. I try all of them. Some of them are products that I use regularly anyway. Sometimes the products are given to me and I try them out. My boyfriend often becomes impatient with me because

I have shelves and shelves of products.

He's not into grooming the way you are?

Not in the same way. (Laughs) Although I have to say he's always a little stubborn in the beginning. "Why would you buy another moisturizer? We already have 12 moisturizers!" "I'm buying it because I'm doing research. I have to do this." He'll say, "All right, all right." And then the next thing I know he'd be trying out the moisturizer. (Laughs) He has a tendency to be a little bit resistant in the beginning.

He must be used to it by now.

(Smiles) He is! He has gotten used to it. I was just talking to him yesterday. "Can we do a facial today? Can we do a mask today?" If it's Sunday afternoon and we're hanging out, he'll often ask for that.

Is he older than you?

His name is Greg. He is a year older than me but he looks 10 years younger. (Laughs) Good genes! (Laughs)

Is it harder to find a date if you're a celebrity?

My experience was it was a little bit harder to date that people were almost shy to approach me or they assumed that I already had a boyfriend. If they see you on television they often assume that you already have a whole line of people who are waiting to date you. The hardest challenge is to get people to feel comfortable.

Were you famous when you met Greg?

Actually, no. We've been dating for 2½ years but we met about four years ago. We just started filming the show that was months and months before it ever aired.

Have you ever made a mistake of asking a straight guy

out? How's your "gay-dar"?

(Laughs) It's not so good anymore! I think that times are changing. Men have a much more balanced energy.

Is this because of the "coming out" of the metrosexual men?

Maybe. Maybe that's what people mean when they say "metrosexual." As human beings we all have male and female principles. We all have a blend of the two. Nowadays guys seem to have much more balance and are much more comfortable... You can't tell as easily as you could in the old days. So I have made that mistake, just a couple of times.

Has there ever been an instance on the show when you felt the straight guy wasn't really that straight?

Oh gosh! The simple answer to the question is no. I've always understood that the guys were straight. Part of that is you know a lot about their history and have a lot of background information on paper before we meet them so we know they're straight. But there is that part, if I'm completely honest... I think it's human to be always questioning. So I wonder, sometimes, but not seriously. And there's been a couple of them that I really wished were gay but they weren't! (Laughs)

All five of you mesh very well. Is there a rivalry at all?

I think if we had a rivalry we would have stopped having fun a long time ago. We have different opinions on different topics. We don't always agree. The chemistry has been there right from the start. I think that's why they cast us.

During the casting process they had it narrowed down to maybe 20 guys and they kept mixing and matching people. I think they did that because they wanted to find



UNEXPECTEDLY large crowd at the Glorietta Activity Center is all ears for the witty "Queer Eye" hosts at the meet-and-greet event sponsored by Ayala Malls with Bench.

out the right chemistry. So we do have a natural chemistry. It's hard to describe what that is or why that is. But I know for myself when I'm around them I become a little bit different. I just rise to the occasion.

In real life I'm relatively shy and quiet. I'm pretty quiet anyway but there's something about when all of us are together that we all just click in place. And that's a pretty neat thing. (Snaps his fingers)

Among the four, who is the funniest?

Carson is funny. His humor you get it right away. He has a very obvious humor. But Thom, I think, is the funniest. He can be very goofy. His humor is sometimes subtle, but when you realize what he just said it's so funny. He's got a subtle humor.

Who would be the most vain?

They would tell you me because I think it's easy to peg the grooming guy. They always make fun of me if I, like, look in the mirror

they always make more of it than it's actually there.

But let me think about that because I think we are all vain. A little bit. I would say me and Carson are probably the most vain, but Thom is a really close second. (Laughs)

And the most serious? You?

Maybe me, yeah. (Smiles) We're all serious, though. You know, Carson has a serious side. But I'm likely the one to be serious at any given moment. Then maybe second is Ted.

The most temperamental.

That might be me. Or it might be Thom. We're all temperamental. You know how it is. I can be very impatient. I can be very impatient with myself, and also with other people. It's the quality about myself that I like the least.

The most talkative.

Carson or Thom. Carson seems obvious, right? But to tell you the truth, Thom, if you ever paid attention, he talks a lot.

Who needs grooming most?

I used to say Carson because he had long hair and it didn't work. I would tell him all the time, "Carson, you have to cut your hair!" And finally he cut his hair.

What's your take on "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy"? Did you watch it?

I didn't. It was canceled very quickly. I think that a show like ours is a novelty. It's a new idea and to repeat it in a different format with a different cast... I think our chemistry is the killer of the show.

Do you feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility to the gay movement around the world as a gay American?

I do. I think all of us try to do our best to be the best people that we can be and to make a positive impact on our culture. Every human being has the right to be a human being. I do feel the responsibility but I also give myself the freedom to do my life.

Daily flights to Legazpi

CEBU PACIFIC (CEB) WILL FLY DAILY STARTING Aug. 17 to Legazpi City at a special introductory fare of only P99 one-way. The flight leaves Manila at 1:30 p.m. and Legazpi at 2:50 p.m. The P99 one-way ticket, 95 percent less than regular airfare, will be on sale until July 27 only and has to be used Aug. 17-Oct. 19. After the sale, Legazpi tickets will be available under the year-round "Go" fares of P568 one-way, 76 percent less than regular price. "Go" fares are exclusive of regular surcharges and government tax.

Second Sto. Pio pilgrimage to Europe

The Philippine Center for St. Pio of Pietrelcina Inc. has announced the organization of the second pilgrimage of devotees to St. Padre Pio on Oct. 4-22. The second pilgrimage of St. Padre Pio devotees was organized because of the overwhelming success of the pilgrimage last year. The pilgrimage would include five countries namely Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria and Germany, and includes visits to miracle sites such as St. Padre Pio's Shrine, Sta. Faustina of the Divine Mercy, The Miraculous Black Madonna

of Czestochowa, St. Nino of Prague, The Vatican Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, Pope John Paul II, among others. The pilgrimage will be accompanied by a chaplain and spiritual director, a devotee of St. Pio. Also heading the pilgrims are devotees of St. Pio: Bro. Chito and Sis. Yez Bertol of Metro Manila and Bro. Manoling and Sis. Julie Torres of Ormoc.



Loyte. Included in the pilgrimage are breakfast and dinner coupled with accommodation in class hotels. For more information, call Sis. Yez Bertol, tour coordinator, at 0921 3431788 or Chat Mina of Adams Express Travel, tel. 5211651, 5211638 or 5211698.

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Sunlit Calls cards are available in all Sun shops nationwide and in authorized retail outlets. Call 3958000 or visit www.suncellular.com.ph.

Seminar on osteoarthritis

DR. JEAN-YVES REGINSTER WILL CONDUCT a seminar on osteoarthritis and osteoporosis on Aug. 2, 7-9 p.m., at the Ayala Museum, Makati City.

The seminar is organized by Pharmedlink and Rottapharm, the company behind Viartri-S, a brand of crystalline glucosamine sulfate, in cooperation with the Philippine Orthopedic Association and Philippine Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine.

Reginster will discuss his findings on the use of glucosamine sulfate for osteoarthritis. He is the director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Public Health Aspects of Rheumatic Disorders. Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis. Symptoms include severe pain at the joints, grating sensation or sound during movement, and stiffness in the morning or after long periods of inactivity. Viartri-S is manufactured by Rottapharm and marketed by Pharmedlink. Call Pharmedlink-Rottapharm at 4592547/4592507 or fax 8891004.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



MALOLOS CARAIG
Llewelyn M. Malolos, son of Lucito and Myrna Malolos, will marry Lea N. Caraig, daughter of Florencia N. vda. de Caraig, on Dec. 9 at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Church, Sta. Tomas, Batangas.

More Milestones on Page D2

TORRENTE-ROXAS

Dyane Roxas, daughter of Domingo and Teresa Roxas, will marry Erico Torrente, son of Eduardo and Emilina Torrente, in Christian rites on July 28 at the Fernwood Gardens, QC.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown. The gown is made of tulle for the skirt. It is embellished with gold glitter and handmade sequined butterfly appliques. Reception follows in the same venue.



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Milestones



ESTABILLO-MIRANDA

Ruben Montano Estabillo, son of Eusebio Sr. (deceased) and Catalina Estabillo, wed recently Maria Linda Sipin Miranda, daughter of Col. Magdaleno and Erlinda Miranda, at the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel, QC. Reception followed at the Fernwood Gardens. The couple has two sons, Benjamin and Kevin.



BONIOI-VALDEZ

Jack Boniol, son of Arturo and Estela Boniol, will exchange marriage vows with Edilyn Valdez, daughter of Eduardo and Evelyn Valdez, on July 27, 4 p.m., at the National Shrine of Sacred Heart Church, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Reception will follow at the Loft, Rockwell Drive. The bride will wear a spaghetti-strapped fully beaded gown by Linol.



PUNZALAN DEBUT

Veronica Joy Punzalan, a sophomore student at University of Santo Tomas taking up Actuarial Science, celebrated her debut at Filinvest 1 Clubhouse, QC. The debutante is the daughter of Larry and Bing Punzalan. She wore a two-toned tangerine, pomelo pink shantung silk with bouffant skirt designed by Leonard Co.



GONZAGA DEBUT

Anna Mae de la Rosa Gonzaga, daughter of Antonio and Marites Gonzaga, celebrated her debut recently at Sampaguita Gardens, New Washington, Aklan. Event coordinators were Rommel Constantino, Ralph Delgado and Jonnen Magpusao of 5672. Event Management Specialist. The debutante is a BS Nursing student at St. Paul University in Iloilo City.

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Afraid to fall for another 'straight' gay

DEAR EMILY,

How do you determine if a straight-acting guy is really straight? I want to avoid falling for another straight-acting gay.

I'm still nursing a broken heart after breaking up with my boyfriend of three years. He was such a gentleman that I told everybody how lucky I was for having him.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo



He never propositioned me but kept telling me how exciting our wedding night would be because it would be the first time for the both of us.

For three years I was the happiest woman in the universe, understandably so because my guy was not only physically perfect—tall, fair and handsome (features that I wanted in the future father of my children), but also intelligent and kind.

I don't know if you can imagine how I felt after a friend, who has an openly gay friend, showed me images (in her gay friend's cell phone) of two handsome guys in very compromising positions. One of them was my boyfriend. The venue was a restroom in a very high-class corporate building in Makati.

After the shock passed, I sobbed uncontrollably and was depressed for a while. I completely avoided my boyfriend's calls and text messages and I even refused to see him when he visited.

Then, after a brief stay in the United States, I confronted him. He was silent for a long time, followed by much crying and pleading. He finally admitted to being a closet gay.

He promised to change if I would give him another chance. But I don't think I can ever forget the nauseating images of him and the other guy.

KY

You cannot and will never find out if a straight-acting guy is really straight until you live with him or guard him 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And then again, despite that, you have no control over his mind.

Your boyfriend's sexual orientation is something he has no power over.

He can swear on a stack of Bibles or cry to high heavens that he'll go straight but there's nothing he can do about it. Either you accept him for what he is and share him with male lovers or dump him once and for all.

A gay friend told me decades ago that a straight guy with raging hormones would not go into a charade of candlelit settings and holding hands routine once he found the girl. He would want to immediately plant his seed, marriage or no, and propagate his genes. I am not suggesting though that a guy should pounce on you the moment you're introduced to prove his manhood.

Your boyfriend apparently failed the test the moment he said he'd want an "exciting first time for the two of you" after your wedding.

Ho-hum! And then again, it's probably you who should change your requirements for the "future father of your children." If you're going for good looks, there's always the danger of choosing someone who will also catch the attention of gay "hunters." They want to be around beauty as much as women do.

Appearances can lie or change, revealing a whole different story that may not be too palatable.

Next time, be more interested in content rather than the packaging. Let your gut do the talking. It will whisper to you what your eyes cannot discern.

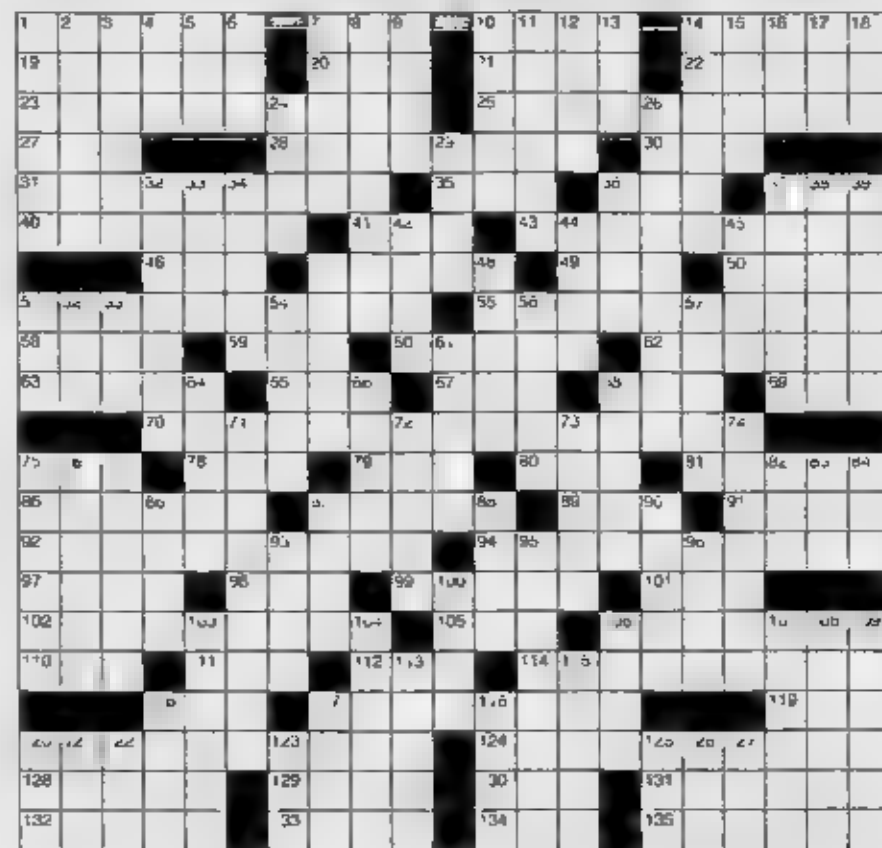
E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the Program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BEGINNINGS

ACROSS	49 Spring mo.	88 —weather (olden sticker)	135 John of "Monty Python"	36 Toll way.	84 — So Shy?
1 Ship, e.g.	50 Big bash	89 acid	37 Dodges	85 Mama's boy on "Mama's Family"	
7 BlackBerry or Palm Pilot briefly	51 Cervina's hookups?	101 Singer	44 A pop	42 Takes it easy	87 Hunky guy
10 "Sands of two Jims" director	55 Prayers for a wild dog?	102 Feline's state of mind?	1 Emergency room stats	45 Lab gelatin	
14 Easy gets	58 Italian wine		2 Prima before	47 — it goes	93 It might be proper
19 Cornet locale	59 Salsa with		3 Medicine man	48 Sea arm	95 Sleeping abed
20 Eclipse part	60 Molar or		4 Unhappy	51 — Kapite!	96 Easy win
21 Bohemian	62 People		5 friendly	52 Bear's gift	100 Shopper's heaven
22 Ms. Paron	63 Paddle		6 Breakout	53 First letter	103 Requiring overtime
23 Recorder of how far an amphibian travels?	64 Padded		7 Jean (big name in fragrances)	54 Sky cries	104 Make a mummy of
25 Reason for a primate to die? 911?	65 Hush-hush		8 Air of horse training	56 Take — (travel)	106 Uncle Ramon's title
27 intent	67 JFK abhor		9 Cropland unit	57 1986-94	107 "Garfield" gal pal
28 National park in California	68 Snaky fish		10 Some surrealist paintings	58 —	108 Clings
30 — Gang	69 Tofu source		11 Miserable	59 —	109 Dangerous
31 Ruminant that's a musical prodigy?	70 Lizard's heart chant?		12 "Are you looking?"	60 Amtrak's	110 Samples
35 PC "oops" key	71 Justice agency		13 sch.	61 Name of live popes	111 To no (useless)
36 Woolen cap	72 "Sures"		14 Psa, e.g.	62 Expenditure	116 Lacks entity
37 Diminish	73 Small dog		15 SWEET	63 1953 Clark	118 No one —
40 O.C. VIP	74 Value		16 —	64 Tense, with "up"	120 Short flight
41 Upper limb	75 Trombone		17 Plus more	65 Amtrak's	121 Healing org.
42 attempt?	76 —		18 Articulate	66 Amtrak's	122 Mothers
43 —	77 —		19 Drag driver	67 Focus	123 Call stud
44 —	78 —		20 Short hole	68 Fleshy male	125 Col.
45 —	79 —		21 unpaired	69 Shy	
46 —	80 —		22 Perched on	70 Shy	
47 —	81 —		23 Hawaiian singer	71 Shy	



answer on page D4

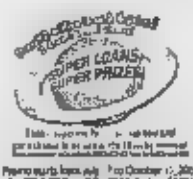
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Soprano Saporsantos in concert

MARIA KATRINA LOZANO SAPORSANTOS will have a concert with internationally acclaimed pianist dean Raul M. Sumco of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music tonight at 7 at the Francisco Santiago Auditorium, EPCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Avenue and H.V. de la Costa.

Saporsantos is a leading young soprano. She is a prizewinner of the 2002 National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namyca).

Her operatic and dramatic stints include "The Life of Lord Takayama Ukon" (opera by Fr. Manuel Maramba/Edward Ishita, with performances in the Philippines and Japan), Philippine Opera Gala, Operanow, and "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos" (music by Antonio Africa). She was also a soloist in the major musical performances of Bach's "Magnificat," Mahler's Symphony No. 8, Rutter's "Magnificat," and Mozart's "Der Schauspielerdirektor."

Saporsantos' piano teachers include Lina Laureola, Nita Quinto and dean Mauricia Borromeo. She graduated from the UP College of Music with a Diploma in Creative and Performing Musical Arts, and a Bachelor of Music degree Major in Voice under the tutelage of dean Ramon Acosimo. She was also a former student of the late professor Elmo Makil and had masterclasses under Marvin Keenze and Evelyn Mandac. She has recently been accepted into the Master of Music Degree Program at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

Admission is free. Call 9366781 or 0197-8997579



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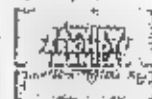
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5K Fun Run P 40.00
21K Half Marathon P 100.00

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IDE

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2006

Free flights for Jesuit volunteers

CEBU PACIFIC HAS FORGED A PARTNERSHIP with Jesuit Volunteers Philippines (JVP). The airline is giving free flights to volunteers going to the provinces in the next five years.

JVP executive director Jo Maribojoc and Cebu Pacific director for marketing Candice Iyog signed the memorandum of agreement.

The JVP has chapters in Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Marikina, Naga and Zamboanga.

Beginning

The great need for volunteer service in different parts of the country prompted Fr. William Kreutz, SJ, and then Jesuit scholastics Noel Vasquez, Vic Laban and Jenny See to organize in 1979 JVP as a program of service.

Every year, college graduates and young professionals are recruited, trained and sent to teach, organize communities, preserve indigenous culture, and work in different mission areas all over the country for at least a year.

For the past 27 years, JVP has been serving 20 institutions composed of 10 schools/education centers, five parishes and five NGOs in different parts of the country. JVP wants to con-

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



The JVP sends young people to work in different parts of the country

tribute to nation-building.

Rey de los Santos, for instance, worked with deaf students in Bacolod City. Ma. Regina de Garcia, who belongs to Batch 18 (1997-98) went to Pili, Camarines Sur, to work with the Kaiba Ka Center for the Handicapped.

Pilgrimage

Professor Consolacion Rustos Alaraz told us

about her Independence Day 2006 pilgrimage to Iloilo and Davao with stops in General Santos and Zamboanga.

Taking the Superferry, she brought with her the Inter-Faith Virgin of the Globe Most Powerful that she received as a gift in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, during the May 2005 USA-Europe Filipino Earth charter pilgrimage; Dambana ng Bayan and the Ark of the Covenant replica as a gift from the Praise God Ministry.

She said, "The July 8-13 Superferry event celebrated and invoked the graces and blessings of the July 7 founding anniversary of the Katipunan. The Philippine Revolutionary Movement marked the sacred coming together of the Katipunan's worthy sons and daughters for God, country and compatriots."

"Above all, the July 2006 Superferry event was a preparation for the pilgrimage on July 16, Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with all the transforming and unifying graces offered by the historic and prophetic sacred Mount Carmel that nurtured holy prophets like St. Elias, known for anointing lungs and readers."

Prayer warriors

The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls will hold the 3rd National Congress and 14th Foundation Day celebration 8 a.m.-5 p.m., July 29, at the gymnasium of the San Juan Elementary School on N. Domingo Street in San Juan.

Theme is "Sacred Heart of Jesus: Burning Furnace of Charity and Love." The admission fee of P200 per person covers packed lunch and 10 bingo games. Call 5312157 local 100 or text 0918-9290603.

Radio program

The Society of St. Expeditus went on the air over Radio Veritas 730 p.m., Tuesday, with Cynthia Sta. Ana-Cruz giving testimony of miracles wrought by God through St. Expeditus. It was the fourth time the radio program "San Expeditus, ang Santong Madaling Lapitan" went on the air with yours truly as anchor host and Dr. Cora Santiago, formerly of the Department of Education National Capital Region, as co-anchor.

Cynthia said doctors gave her husband, Jaime Cruz, five years to live after he suffered complications from a heart bypass in 1990. He prayed to St. Expeditus and lived another 10 years.

Charismatic healer

Fr. Diwane Cacao went to the station and blessed the listeners, with the hymn "Come Holy Spirit" playing in the background. Father Cacao prayed over the listeners. About 50 people called for complete healing.

The next radio program will be at 730 p.m., Aug. 15, on Radio Veritas, 846 KHz on the AM band. Father Cacao will again conduct healing on-air.

Those who want novenas to St. Expeditus can write to me at P.O. Box 2050, Manila.

Lourdes trip

Fr. Leo de Jesus of Pili, Bulacan will lead pilgrims on Oct. 8 in a tour of the "Best of Europe." Included in the itinerary are Lourdes, France; Fatima, Portugal; Paris to visit the Miraculous Medal Church, Netherlands to visit Our Lady of All Nations, Belgium; Spain, Italy; and Monte Carlo. Call 5211651 or text 0918-9083676.

Healing

The Bethesda Springs Healing Ministry will hold a retreat on the healing of family tree and relationships at 5 p.m., July 28 and 30, at the St. Therese Chapel in Crown Peak Gardens, Subic.

Please call tel. 6330153.

Our Lady of Piat in NY

Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan will celebrate Mass 10 a.m., July 29, at the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Lower Manhattan, New York, during the enthronement of Our Lady of Piat, patroness of Cagayan Valley.

Fr. Ermo Diaz, director of the Filipino Apostolate in New York.

Anniversary

The Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (Sacramentino), province of Our Lady of the Assumption, will have a year-long celebration of its golden foundation anniversary starting Aug. 15. A thanksgiving and fundraising concert, "50 Years na Kami," will be held 6 p.m., Aug. 18, at the Sta. Cruz Church. It will feature the Tiongco Brothers, actor/singer Juan Rodrigo, Marri Nolasco and Christian.

Proceeds will go to the SSS Foundation to support seminarians.

Call 2521560, 7332978 and 7330245/46.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

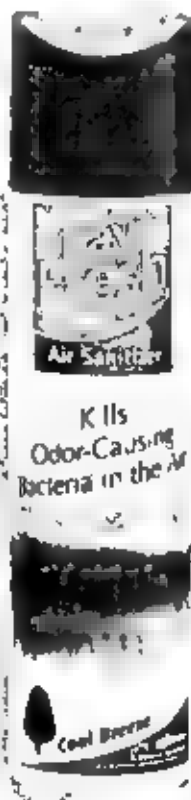
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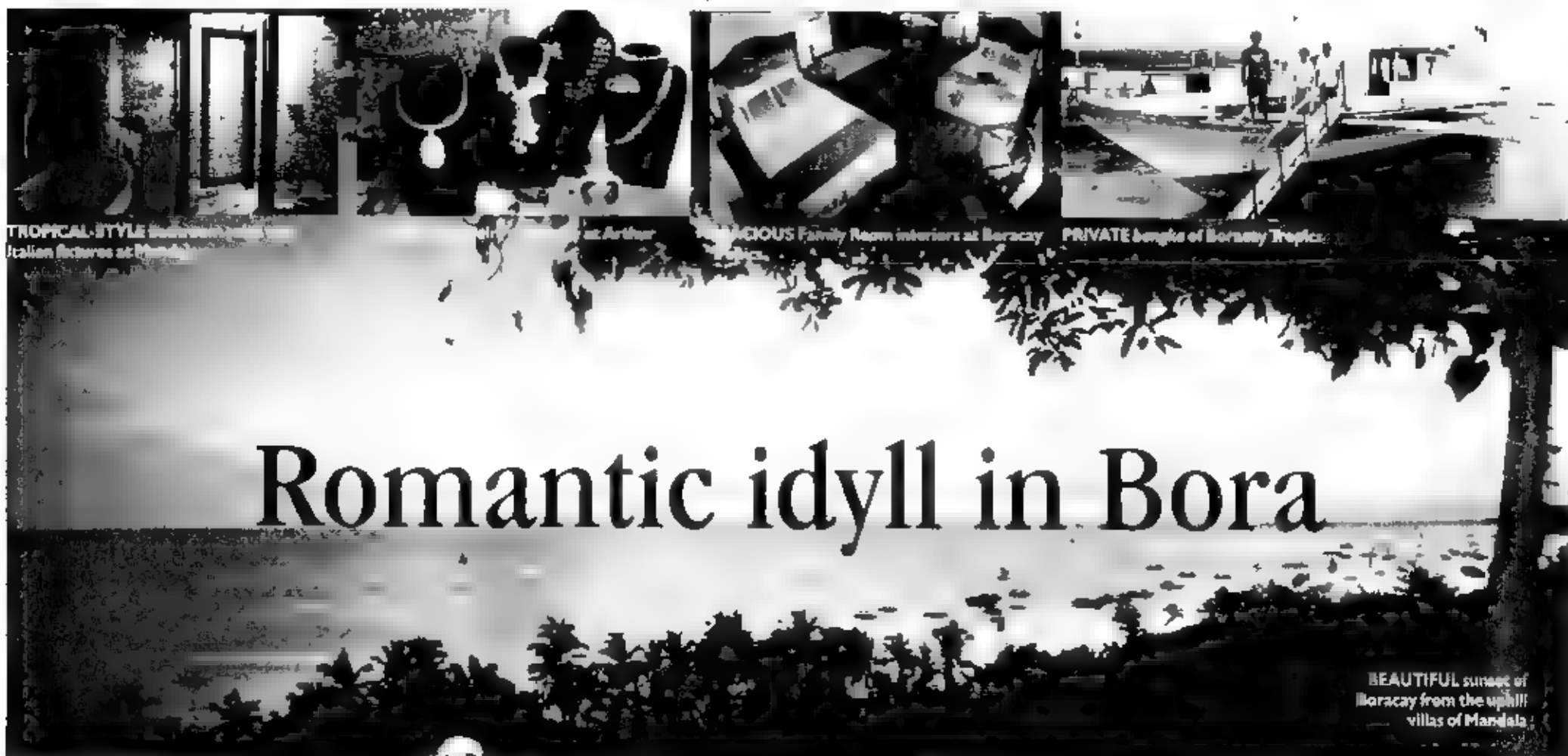
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Romantic idyll in Bora

SO MANY WONDERFUL articles have been written about bright and sunny Boracay Island, but there are only a few about its beauty during the off-season. The fact is: the Philippines' best tourism treasure is easy to love, rain or shine. Its mile-long stretch of pristine, white sand remains flawless, whether packed with sun-block-smeared urbanites or henna tattooed locals enjoying the calm waters between storms.

For our 12th wedding anniversary, I "kidnapped" my hubby, Dennis, for a weekend in Bora. Just a few hours before the 5 a.m. Asian Spirit flight, I told him that we would be flying out of town. I had already packed a light bag for him, in contrast to the big bag I had over-packed with swimwear, beach outfits and accessories—just enough to cover up what little skin might show. All he needed to do was bring his credit cards.

It was hard to believe we hadn't been in Boracay in over six years, during which time it had transformed into the most happening beach party location, as chronicled in *Inquirer Super*. As June is off season, we were looking forward to a quiet, romantic weekend!

To my surprise, the incoming boats to the island were full. The beach was bustling with action and in the water, banana boats skimmed past the parasailers. It did not seem like the rainy season since the sun was out in full force.

As our *bangka* arrived in Station 2, we were greeted by the colorfully dressed staff of the Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel, the newest AAA resort, as rated and accredited by the Department of Tourism.

Boracay Tropics (tel. 6673974 or visit www.boracaytropics.com) is a sprawling, garden oasis with 44 elegantly appointed, superior deluxe rooms and six Cabana suites. Its verdant landscape blends Mediterranean and Asian architecture, with every room overlooking a giant, bean-shaped pool and surrounding lush garden.

BT is just a short, five-minute walk to the beach. I realized that this actually means a more tranquil haven from the bustling foot

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I marked a dozen years of wedded bliss by 'kidnapping' my hubby to the island getaway



BERT and Cely's silver wedding anniversary dance

traffic on the beachfront. In some ways, it reminds me of a mini-version of Plantation Bay Villas in Mactan, with its equally efficient service and amenities.

The Resort also has seminar rooms, a health-and-nail spa and a multi-purpose TropiCafé Restaurant, which is spacious enough for intimate gatherings. Its formal opening coincided with the silver wedding anniversary party of its enterprising owners, Bert and Cely Sarabia.

Just a hop, skip and a jump from Boracay Tropics, the D'Mall area is the high-energy beachfront of Boracay.

D'Mall is a shopping haven with great food outlets. Who would have thought having arugula salad with fresh Parmesan cheese or Lavazza café latte with a shot of Baileys is possible on a remote island? It just makes one of the most beautiful beaches in the world even more wonderful to holiday!

My shopping radar spotted an interesting, specialty jewelry and home décor shop called Arthur Li-ro. Located at the Plazaleta beside Boracay Regency, Arthur Li-ro showcases the exquisite work of jewelry art designer Ronnie Castro. Ronnie retails his work all over Taiwan and this is his only outlet in the country.

Bora has blossomed. Resorts range from the super high-end to the more homey bed-and-breakfasts. The "informal" economy remains strong, from vendors offering to braid your hair to the ubiquitous henna tattoo artists and the giant sand-castle builders asking for donations.

High-end

At the luxury end of the Bora scale is the Mandala Spa & Villas (tel. +6336-288-5856 to 59 or visit www.mandalaspaspa.com). After countless invitations from party-girl-turned-marketing wiz Freida Dario, I finally had the chance to sample the ultimate in pampering—a five-hour, royal bliss spa treatment with the right blend of aromatherapy oils, exotic scents of incense, hand-picked flowers and expertly trained therapists' healing hands, all in the cocooned comfort of one of their Luxury Resort Villas.

Fittingly called the Princess and Emperor Treatment, the holistic experience begins with a floral foot bath, stimulating the senses as we journeyed to the salt glow scrub and cool cucumber aloe wrap. At this point, with my husband new to scrub and wrap sensations, he wondered why he was all green, covered with cucumber and asked if there were really tangible benefits to all these vegetables.

I was just enjoying the treatment with my papaya-pineapple body polish wrap. From there, we luxuriated amid tropical flowers in a free-standing, hot-tub bath and then yielded into our nurturing Mandala Signature Massage. And for the finale, we had an All-Natural Facial as the final treatment in the package.

Love was certainly in the air! And even more so for Mandala owner, Karen Villarica-Reina, as we discovered that she married hunky Tom Neff in California last Friday. The newlyweds are off to live in spa bliss on some secluded island in Palawan. When we were there last month, Karen was just recounting the romantic, rainy weekend where they both got caught up in that perfect storm.

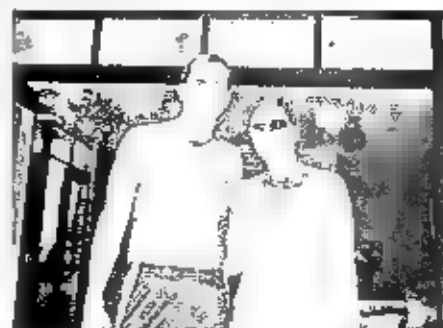
The idyllic sanctuary of Mandala Spa & Villas offers luxurious accommodations and award-winning therapies enveloped in ultimate privacy and modern comforts with



NEWLYWED Mandala owner Karen Villarica-Reina flanked by AsiaSpa media representative Beni Gomez and Kate Rodrigo



BORACAY Tropics GM Ramon Pacificar with staff Annie Anilongo and Francel Mae Masa



NEW Bora Resort, Zuzuni owners Nikos Gitis and Geni Painakis



MANDALA'S expert therapists Ana Karina Aranzuez and Dia Navarro inside Luxury Resort Villa

stylish Italian fixtures. Its new GM, Ronald Dexter, formerly from The Orienta Spa at Mandarin, will be introducing Spa Management Services, training and setup for spas. The resort has been nominated for Best Wellness Retreat at the 2006 SpaAsia Crystal Awards. In these quality-driven awards, the public is part of the poll to choose Asia's finest in the spa industry. To be counted, cast your

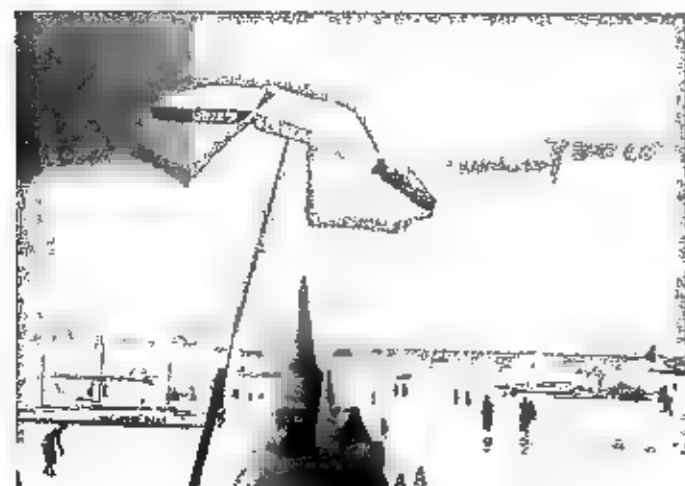
votes at www.spaasia.com/awards/vote.asp and support our very own.

So if you're looking for the perfect escape from the rains in Manila, or want to have that romantic anniversary weekend or just need a good massage, consider Bora. It's just a flight away.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



CABANAS Suites of Boracay Tropics Resort Hotel with its lush garden



WATER spout on the horizon photographed using a Nokia N90



AMAZING gigantic sand castle along the white sand beach of Boracay



BORACAY Tropics owners Bert and Cely Sarabia with efficient staff



PERKY marketing wiz of Mandala Freida Dario



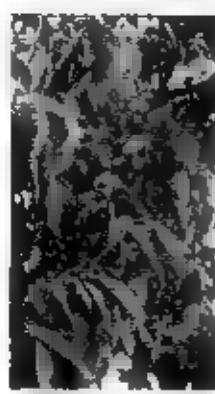
UNIQUE jewelry designer and artist Ronnie Castro



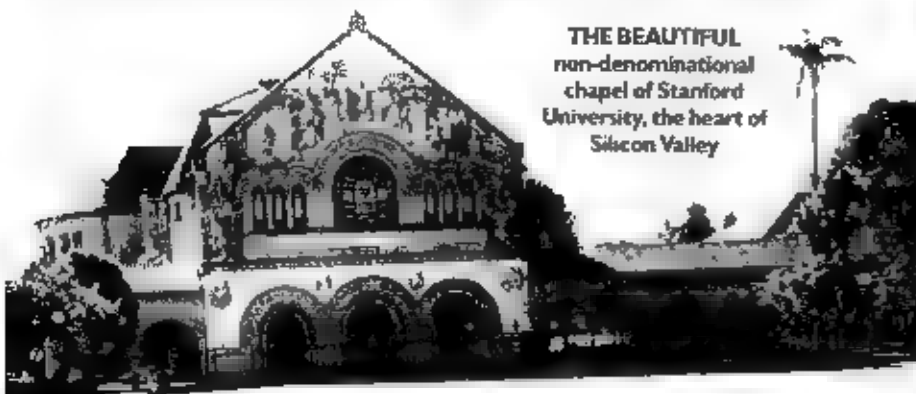
VIEW of Boracay Tropics from the veranda of a deluxe room



AT ORCHARDS like this one, though fruits are sold by buckets and pails, pickers can eat as much as they want without paying extra.



LITERALLY ripe for the picking are these cherries.



THE BEAUTIFUL non-denominational chapel of Stanford University, the heart of Silicon Valley

San Francisco, golden gate-way to northern California



Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

IT'S ALL RIGHT TO LEAVE YOUR heart in San Francisco. Just don't let that keep you from exploring the rest of the peninsula.

Though San Francisco's attractions are many—Embarcadero that includes, among others, the Fisherman's Wharf and Ghirardelli Square; Chinatown, cable car, Lombard Street, Alcatraz, to name some—the city's charms are enhanced by the ease it affords the traveler to visit many other places worth exploring.

Whether you go up, down or sideways (as in the movie), take the fabled Golden Gate Bridge or the modernist San Francisco-Oakland Bay

Bridge, you are likely to end up somewhere pretty or simply interesting.

Posh Sausalito, a postcard-pretty and primarily residential area where the well-to-do retreat to escape the noise and bustle of the big metropolis, is just across the bay, accessible through the Golden Gate Bridge or by ferry. Houses are built on hills, giving residents a panoramic view of the calm waters of the bay.

The Bay Bridge takes you to Oakland, of course, and the University of California Berkeley, site of so many student protests that, to many alumni of the University of the Philippines (particularly those with memories of political activism in the Philippines), it feels almost like their alma mater.

Farther north of San Francisco are Sonoma and Napa Valleys, known primarily as wine countries. You can have a leisurely trip to Napa, made even more famous by the critically acclaimed movie "Sideways," with its European ambience—acres and acres of vineyards, broken occasionally by large structures for wine-making and/or selling or residences.

The wine estates are made even prettier by well-kept gardens which, in the summer, are filled with brightly colored blooms.

Along the way to Napa, you can make brief stops in orchards where you can buy fruits that you pick yourself. This time of year it is time for

SAN FRANCISCO/64

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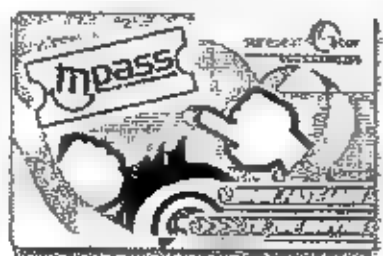
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DIGIC II

**EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF PREMIUM CONFECTIONERY BRANDS SUCH AS
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At least 3 years supervisory experience in dealing with supermarkets, CVS, groceries, and other retail channels
Must be highly motivated and action-oriented
With sufficient background in sales, forecasting and planning
Aggressive, creative & open-minded in implementing sales solutions
Excellent interpersonal skills. Initiative and should be self-motivated
Work closely with Merchandising Department in product development
Proficient in written and oral communications (English)
Advance computer literacy

SALES REPRESENTATIVE (Male/Female)

Must not be more than 30 years old
At least 3 years selling experience in semi-perishable imported consumer goods to supermarkets, groceries, drug stores, etc.
Must be hardworking, mature, assertive and highly personable with strong salesmanship skills
Must possess effective communication and negotiation skills
Knowledge in MS Office application
Well versed in trade policies/procedures

MARKETING MANAGER (Male/Female)

With experience in product management and brand building activities
Excellent communication (both oral and written) and presentation skills
Strategic thinker and flexible

MARKETING ASSISTANT (Male/Female)

Must not be more than 30 years old
With experience in marketing and product development/promotions
Knowledge in Adobe Photoshop & other graphics application software an advantage

DATA ENCODER (Male/Female)

With highly knowledgeable in software application and excellent typing skill required
Must be graduate of 4 year computer course
At least 1 year of working experience in similar capacity
Must be analytical with strong sense of responsibility and urgency

OFFICE STAFF (Male/Female)

Must not be more than 30 years old
Graduate of 4 year course
Hardwork driven and computer literate
Organized and willing to work long hours
Positive working attitude, self-motivated and strong sense of responsibility and independence
Preferably with accounting background. Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply
Can speak Chinese language an advantage

ACCOUNTING CLERK (Female)

Must not be more than 30 years old
Must be accounting graduate
Knowledge in accounting software is an advantage
Hardworking, willing to work long hours and under pressure
Experience in handling full set of account and company secretarial work will be an advantage
Experience on consolidation is preferred
Responsible for monitoring the accounts receivables and collections

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT (Male/Female)

Must not be more than 30 years old
Graduate of 4 year course
Hardwork driven and computer literate
Organized and willing to work long hours
Possess leadership and supervisory potentials
Good coordination and interpersonal skills

CONTACT: 8123605 CALL TIME: 9 AM TO 3 PM



Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Construction of Firewall
for Transformer No. 1 at Batangas Substation

The proposed project required construction of two (2) units 5.10 meters high from ground line elevation) x 10 meters wide concrete firewall purposely to serve as protection to other live/energized substation equipments.

[TRANS-06-GFTBS-EG-16]

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG), intends to apply the sum of One Million One Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighty and 13/100 (P1,174,380.13) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Construction of Firewall for Transformer No. 1 at Batangas Substation. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the construction of firewall for transformer no. 1 at Batangas substation. Bidders should possess a valid PCAS license with License Particular of at least "Category D & C, General Building" and Registration Particular of at least "Small B-Building & Industrial Plant," must have at least completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving experience in construction of civil structures inside an energized substation switchyard. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: August 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraph. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by 38 calendar days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRRA) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRRA Part A of R.A. 9184, any bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the lowest Calculated Response Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below starting July 24-August 07, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. They shall submit their completed Eligibility documents on or before August 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on August 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the QAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on August 23-25, 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting August 23-25, 2006, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on August 31, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the QAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente, Bldg. 1, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on September 12, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address below. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, September 12, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the QAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente, Bldg. 1, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera - BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
Chairman

(PDI-July 23 & 24, 2006)



TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ESTABLISHMENT OF IT INFRASTRUCTURE (WITH RFID TECHNOLOGIES)
FOR THE INVENTORY SYSTEM OF TRANSOCO PILOT WAREHOUSE

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSOCO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of P10,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for P806426-LE0075PR No. QST-06-00020238. Establishment of IT Infrastructure (with RFID Technologies) for the Inventory System of TransCo Pilot Warehouse in San Jose, Del Monte, Bulacan. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Award shall be on a lot basis.

2. The TRANSOCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Establishment of IT Infrastructure (with RFID Technologies) for the Inventory System of TransCo Pilot Warehouse in San Jose, Del Monte, Bulacan. Delivery of the GOODS is required within ninety (90) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRRA) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/proprietors, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5163 (R.A. 5163) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from July 24, 2006 to August 15, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00. The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

5. The TRANSOCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 31, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the QAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before August 15, 2006/10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Approved Budget for the Contract to Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or P100,000.00
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) or P150,000.00
3. Surety bond	Two percent (2%) or P200,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or P10,000,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on August 15, 2006/10:00 AM at the Admin Conference Room same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

8. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochao, BAC Chairman
IMPD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City.
Telephone: (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
Fax: (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
E-mail: armando_n_ochao@transco.ph
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-July 23 & 24, 2006)



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart!

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO. 06-13-2006-DAV

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitoria Service for Casino Filipino - Davao
Brief Description : Location: Grand Regal Hotel, Lanting, Davao City
Silo Machine (SM) VIP Club, Apo View Hotel, Davao City
Req. Personnel: 40 janitors (25 - Males and 15 - Females)
Including a working supervisor

Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Approved Budget : Nine Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 9,200,000.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila. Tel. No. (02) 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office - Casino Filipino-Davao

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9164 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 12, 2006 August 10, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 26, 2006 2 pm
3. Submission of Bids	August 11, 2006 2 pm
4. Opening of Bids	August 11, 2006 2 pm onwards

VENUE: Casino Filipino Davao

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (Php 4,600.00) in order to secure the documents. Bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee - Casino Filipino-Davao

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee - Casino Filipino-Davao.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO E. PABLAN JR.
Chairperson, BSAC Casino Filipino-Davao
(PDI July 16 & 23, 2006)

URGENTLY NEEDED!

FOREMAN / SUPERVISOR
FOR BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of Forestry, Agriculture, Botany or other related courses.
- Must have at least 3 years work experience handling various projects and people
- With very good exposure to beautification projects such as landscaping, gardening, horticulture, etc.
- Must have very good communication and leadership skills.
- Willing to be based in Bulacan.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST EMAIL THEIR RESUME WITH REFERENCES TO: tnk.shelley@gmail.com
* We will reply to qualified applicants only.



TARELCO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

The Tarelco II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II), intends to dispose one lot of decommissioned junk and various scrap materials.

All parties interested to bid for the above mentioned materials are hereby invited to pre-qualify with TARELCO II.

The junk/scrap materials are available for inspection at the Main Office located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac.

Bidders are required to submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: photo copies of business license or registration; latest audited financial statements; latest Income Tax Returns (original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

VARIOUS SCRAP MATERIALS TO BE DISPOSED:

- Savaged RWHM (Assorted Type) 1,708 units
- Transformers
 - Distribution Transformer (Assorted Ratings) 124 units
 - Old Current Transformers 6 units
 - Capacitor, Power Old 9 units
- Hardware and Line Materials
 - Guy wire, 5/8" Hard Old (3,794 lgs.) 7,904 pcs
 - Secondary Rack, (Old wire) (278 lgs.) 264 pcs
 - Socket Base, F Hubs, Old (150, 4 Jaws (defective) (192 lgs.) 276 pcs
 - Transformer Hanger for cross arm (renewed) (Old line) (250 lgs.) 24 pcs
 - Cut-out, V-Type, Defective (renewed) (Old line) 66 pcs
 - Cut-out, (Assorted Type) Defective, wire Holder 76 pcs
 - Cut-out Holder, Defective 27 pcs
 - Lighting Armature, Assorted Types, Defective 36 pcs
 - Wires and Conductors 7,905 units
 - Ties, Wire-cut, Assorted sizes 160 units
 - Batteries, Defective, Assorted Sizes 22 pcs

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MR. PABLO D. MAGALAS, at TARELCO II Main Office Building located at San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac. Prequalification documents are available beginning July 24, 2006.

Submission of Prequalification Documents July 24-27, 2006

Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference August 02, 2006 at 1:30 PM at TARELCO II

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

Bids shall be accompanied by a required Bid Bond (Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Surety Bond) of at least 2.5% of the total amount to bid.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0450 or Fax No. (45) 923-0471 & 923-0224.

(PDI-July 23 & 24, 2006)



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Baguio, Baguio City
Tel. No. 043-723-3225 / 043-402-1878
Fax No. 043-723-0449 / 043-402-0189
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph E-mail Add: nfaiv@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Regional Office IV, with its official address at Brgy. Baguio, Baguio City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sack manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of banded new white polypropylene empty sack (BNTS) for non-Fortified Rice as indicated below:

EMPTY SACK TYPE	QUANTITY (PIECES)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	DELIVERY POINT
Price (PPMGS)	270,000	P 2,369,500.00	NFA-Balagtas

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9164 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 17-31, 2006 (week, Sat., Sun. & Holidays)
2. Pre-bid Conference	August 04, 2006 at 10:00 am
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	August 17, 2006 at 10:00 am
4. Bid Evaluation	August 18-24, 2006
5. Post-qualification	August 25-31, 2006
6. Notice of Award	September 12, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 2,500.00 to the National Food Authority's Cashier.

The mode of payment shall be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by

(Sgd.) TOMAS R. ESCAREZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-July 17 & 23, 2006)



BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various brand new motor vehicles for DTI, with an approved budget of Twelve million seven hundred ninety-five thousand pesos (Php 12,795,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 17 July 2006 until 5 P.M. of 24 July 2006 during office hours at the Supply Section, General Administrative Service Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 381 San Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or Mr. Claudio H. Avelino, with telephone number 751-4996. A pre-bid conference will be held on 24 July 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 381 San Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 7 August 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 381 San Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The DTI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

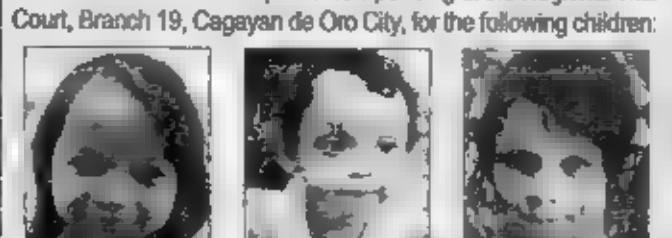
(Sgd.) MARIA LOUISE T. SAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI July 16 & 23, 2006)

REWARD PHP 200,000.00

For information leading to the RECOVERY of my children.

A Petition for Habeas Corpus is now pending at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 19, Cagayan de Oro City, for the following children:



Hannah Rose Alpers 6 years old (DOB: 09/16/1999)
Joshua Stewart Alpers 3 years old (DOB: 09/26/2003)
Sarah Susan Alpers 9 years old (DOB: 11/17/1996)

Alias last names used may be MADELO or CUBERO.

Contact #s (088) 857-1864 or 0921-326-7434.

(PDI-July 23, 24 & 25, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that JUSTINE M. SEBASTIAN whose picture appears above is no longer connected with CATHAY LAND, INC. - SOUTH FORBES GOLF CITY effective June 7, 2006. Any transaction entered into by JUSTINE M. SEBASTIAN will not be honored by CATHAY LAND, INC. Anyone who may have entered into any transactions with Justine M. Sebastian for and in behalf of Cathay Land, Inc., is advised to contact Lielze F. Fernando at (02) 638-22-64 and verify the status of their respective account.

(PDI-July 16 & 23, 2006)

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VIA SPECIALISTJORDAN R. HARRIS
SYNOPSIS: 570 HERMES

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ALLERGIES RECURRENT
JIT/ALMOHARAS
INFERTILITY/AMPOULES
MOLECULAR/SCAR REMOVAL
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Area: 400 SQ.M.

Location: Felipe St., Poblacion

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- near Rockwell Center

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w/ 500 sq. ft.

20.3m x 10.5m plot

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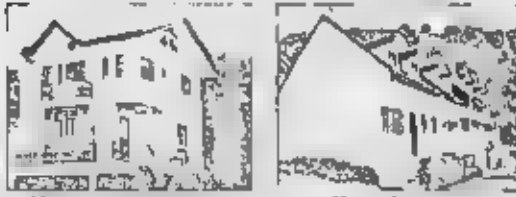
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
Blas F. Ople Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 722-1447/22-1155
Website: www.poea.gov.ph, email: info@poea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget Ceiling for the Contract	DATE & TIME	Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bid Docs	Price of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)
1. Repainting and Restoration of BFO Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1)	P3,066,525.99	Aug. 18, 2006 10 am, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication	August 28, 2006 9:30 am, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication, POEA	P5,000.00
2. Renovation of POEA Auditorium	P2,344,374.38	Aug. 18, 2006 2 pm, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication	August 28, 2006 2 pm, Conference Room, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication, POEA	P2,500.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All Particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

For the Repainting and Restoration of Blas F. Ople Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1)

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 17 to August 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 17 to August 1, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 17 to August 1, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 4 to 11, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	August 16, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 28, 2006, 9:30 am, Conference Room, Office of the DA for Licensing and Adjudication, 4/F BFO Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

For the Renovation of the POEA Auditorium

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 17 to August 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 17 to August 1, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 17 to August 1, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 3, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 4 to 11, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	August 16, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 28, 2006, 2:00 pm, Conference Room, Office of the DA for Licensing and Adjudication, 4/F BFO Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Administrator for Licensing and Adjudication, 4/F Blas F. Ople Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 for the Repainting and Restoration of the POEA Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1) and P850.00 for the Renovation of the POEA Auditorium to the POEA Cashier, 5/F Blas F. Ople Bldg., EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 for the Repainting and Restoration of the POEA Bldg., Exterior and Lobby (Phase 1) and P1,650.00 for the Renovation of the POEA Auditorium to the POEA Cashier.

The POEA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY VIVECA C. CATALIO

(PDI - July 16 & 23, 2006)

Office of the President



Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (SECURITY SERVICES)

The BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), wishes to invite all proposers with at least five (5) years in continuous business operation as a legitimate security agency to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Contract for Security Services for the Three (3) Areas of Responsibility (AORs) with their respective Proposed Budget for the Contract (PBC) for one (1) year, to wit:

AOR	AREA COVERED	NO. OF GUARDS	PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
	Taguig		
	BCDA Corporate Center	32	P 15,571,060
	Parayangan Diego Silang	46	
I	Fort Bonifacio/Veteran Open Areas	107	
II	Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEX) - Package 1 & 2	79	
	TOTAL		P 80,884,964.00

All Bidders may bid for one or more AORs but shall be awarded only one contract or AOR. Bids received in excess of the PBC shall automatically be rejected at the bid opening.

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) of the bidding documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, or other legal entities or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from 25 July 2006 to 07 August 2006 by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of Cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

BCDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 06 August 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address mentioned above on or before 06 September 2006 not later than 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Surety Bond from GRS, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check in the amount equivalent to the following:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of the PBC for the Contract to be Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Performance Security	One and a Half Percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond	Two and a Half Percent (2.5%)

In case the proposed bidder opts to accompany his/her bid with security in cash, he/she should pay directly to the BCDA Treasury and Investments Department and place the Official Receipt inside the big envelope which contains the other bid envelopes. Late bids shall be received only for purposes of marking and recording the time at the BCDA Central Receiving and Releasing Area but shall not be accepted by the BAC. Bidders shall submit the following requirements in order to secure the complete set of the bidding documents:

- Letter of Intent (LOI) to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid addressed to the Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee.

Ms. Fideia A. Ladores or
Mr. Romeo A. Ladores

- Valid Certificate of Registration of the bidder with DBM-EP.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to amend the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For inquiries, please contact Mrs. Lally A. Ladores or Mrs. Diana B. Barrera at telephone no. 818-8958 loc. 170/109.

(Sgd.) NIEVELENA V. ROSETTE
Chairperson

(PDI - July 23 & 30, 2006)

Top secrets of handling BIR audit workshop slated

FINALLY, A WORKSHOP that will reveal inside information on sure-fire ways to save money without compromising your integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on Aug. 23, 24, and 25, 1-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. CPE Credits will be given to CPAs.

Topics Include Day

1. Letter of Authority; First, Second and Third Notice, Responsibility of Bookkeepers, Accountants, Auditors & Company Officers; Day 2: Handling of Report of investigation; Notice for Informal Conference, Preliminary and Final Assessment Notice, Day 3: BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum, DOJ Fiscal Duces Tecum, Preparing Counter Affidavit, Preparation of Rejoinder Fiscal Resolution; Ruling of Appeal to DOJ, etc. Registering for one day only is allowed, but people are encouraged to attend the whole program.

The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Remy Maestre, CPA, Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents, Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan, and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Mesa, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tekite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

39 ways to close more sales

HOW MANY CLOSING techniques do your sales people know? If they do not know even 5 techniques, how could you expect them to close more sales? Your company will only "Earn More" if your people close more sales. Let your people learn the 39 special techniques that the top producers use — A Must for your salespeople. The seminar is slated on Friday, Aug. 11, 1-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly Galleria Suite).

The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Mr. Rene Espinosa, the managing director of PMI and one of the country's top sales and motivational trainers.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Mesa, Inc. with office address at Suite 2502-C Tekite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

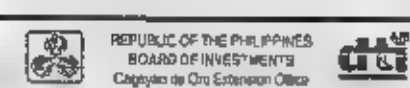


Aima Labra Makk opens MMCO 6th Concert Season

THE INSTITUTE FOR ORCHESTRAL DEVELOPMENT in the Philippines in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ayala Westgrove Heights, Marikina College and the Philippine Star will present the Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO) for its 6th MMCO Concert Season. The Gala Concert will feature the brilliant virtuoso Austria-based Filipino pianist, Aima Labra Makk on Sunday, July 30, 8pm at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Ms. Makk, who has received critical acclaim in Europe and the United States, highlights the concert with the grand Beethoven No. 5 Piano Concerto "Emperor." Themed as Ludwig et al, Music Director Josefine Chano Toledo leads the MMCO with the popular Outdoor Overture by Copland, the Classical Symphony by Prokofiev, and By the Hillside by National Artist Antonio Buenaventura.

Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office 832-1125, Music Center, Marikina College 426-1822 and 0917-7929572.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Category of One Extension Office

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that NATURE'S FRESH PINEAPPLES, INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a NEW EXPORTER of FRESH PINEAPPLES on a Non-Pioneer status with an annual capacity of 449,280 BOXES with projects site located at AGLAYAN, MALAYBA, AY CITY, BUKIDNON.

Any person with valid objection to the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CANA
Director

Project Evaluation and Registration Department
(PDI-July 23, 2006)

More Classified Ads
Philippine Regulatory Commission
Page A13

OBITUARIES

Our Beloved

MERCEDES AGRAVANTE ISLETA

Peacefully joined the Lord on
July 21, 2006 at the age of 70.

Her husband Ret. Gen. Tereso J. Isleta; her children Ina & Paul Canino, Isa & Jon Mathay, Pia & Nur Domingo, Digay, Buddy & Noreen Lotuaco, grandchildren Julio, Pia, Flo, Baba, Peco, Pepe & Iana, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Fumeraria Paz. Sugal inside Manila Memorial Park, Sugal, Parañaque. Mass will be held everyday. Interment will be on July 25, 2006 (Tuesday) after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sugal.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."


John 3:16

Col. Benjamin Quicho de Guzman (Ret.) GSC PA

Passed away on 17 July 2006 at the age of 78.

His loved ones, family, relatives, colleagues, classmates and friends, keep vigil at his wake at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Premier Suite 1. A necrological service will give tribute to him on 24 July 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Loyola. He will be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayan on 25 July 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

"Death is not extinguishing the light from life, it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come."



I love working at PeopleSupport because of the outstanding health benefits enjoyed by all employees, the open door policy that allows me to speak my mind, the fun and friendly culture that helps me look forward to each day, and the great opportunities for learning and growth that help me pursue my long-term professional goals!

Learning is fun at PeopleSupport!

Jam, Associate Trainer

- 2002 - eRep for a Travel Account
- 2003 - Lead Agent
- 2004 - Promoted to QA Analyst
- 2006 - Joined PeopleSupport University as Associate Trainer

We are also open on Saturdays!

WHO IS PEOPLESUPPORT?

PeopleSupport, Inc. is one of the largest and leading US-based business process outsourcing (BPO) providers in the Philippines. Over 6,000 employees are spread out among world-class facilities in Manila, Cebu and Costa Rica, and its headquarters in California, USA.

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Operations Manager • Team Manager

QUALITY ASSURANCE
Quality Assurance Director • Quality Assurance Manager
Process and Reporting Analyst

SALES
Client Services Manager • Sales Associate

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Network Engineer (CISCO) • Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Telecommunication Administrator (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES
Employee Relations Officer • Recruitment Officer for Sourcing
HR Reporting Analyst • Compensation and Benefits Associate
Recruitment Associate • Recruitment Assistant

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Payroll System Administrator • Payroll Assistant

LEGAL
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Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
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9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222

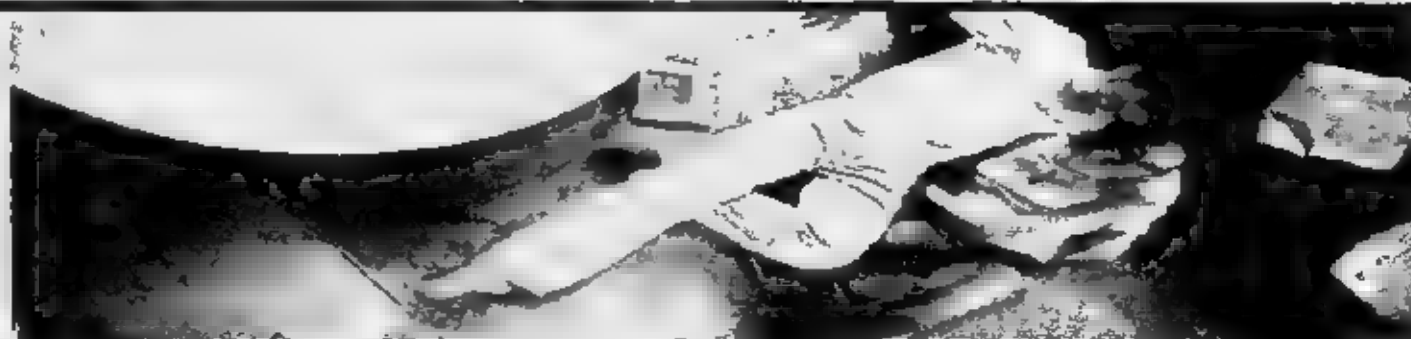
Davao City
A 301 Plaza de Luisa
140 Ramon Magsaysay Ave
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Test/Product Engineering Manager

You'll be responsible for driving and managing improvement programs for Mixed Signal and VLSI Products. This includes planning and executing test cost reduction and quality programs, and supporting all manufacturing requirements related to product engineering. You'll supervise, manage the Test/Product Engineering Section and ensure the development of competencies of test/product engineers in your group. You'll coordinate with your counterparts in other sites on issues and concerns related to product. You'll work with various users group on DFT, Hardware standardization and DFM.

You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience in the semiconductor industry. To succeed in this role, you'll need to be knowledgeable in digital and mixed signal testing methodology. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical or problem solving skills especially in the area of product testing. Managerial experience and effective communication skills are required.

RF Test Development Section Manager

You'll be responsible for driving and managing test engineering programs for RF products. This includes planning and executing Test Program Migration, Multi-site Testing and Test Program Development on new products. You'll supervise and manage the RF Test Development Section and ensure the development of competencies of RF engineers in your group.

You'll work with various users group on DFT, Hardware standardization and DFM. You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience in RF testing methodology. To succeed in this role, you'll need to be knowledgeable in RF testing methodology. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical or problem solving skills especially in the area of product testing. Managerial experience and effective communication skills are required.

RF Test/Product Engineering Section Manager

You'll be responsible for driving and managing improvement programs for RF Products. This includes planning and executing cost reduction and quality programs, and supporting all manufacturing requirements related to product engineering. You'll supervise, manage the Test/Product Engineering Section and ensure the development of competencies of test/product engineers in your group. You'll coordinate with your counterparts in other sites on issues and concerns related to product. You'll work with various users group on DFT, Hardware standardization and DFM.

You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience in the semiconductor industry. To succeed in this role, you'll need to be knowledgeable in RF testing methodology. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical or problem solving skills especially in the area of product testing. Managerial experience and effective communication skills are required.

Mixed Signal Test Engineering Section Manager

You'll be responsible for driving and managing test engineering programs for Mixed Signal Test Products. This includes planning and executing Test Program Migration, Multi-site Testing and Test Program development on new products. You'll supervise and manage the Mixed Signal Test Development group. You'll work with various users group on DFT, Hardware standardization and DFM.

You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience in the semiconductor industry. To succeed in this role, you'll need to be knowledgeable in Mixed Signal and VLSI testing methodology. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical or problem solving skills especially in the area of product testing. Managerial experience and effective communication skills are required.

Assembly PPC Manager

You'll be responsible for leading and managing production control functions in assembly manufacturing. This includes training and developing subordinates and coordinating with other support groups regarding materials, deliveries and customer requests. You will be responsible on releasing/issuing of logistics-related RFI/Assembly BBS and other reports.

You must be an Engineering degree holder preferably ME, EE, IE or ECE with relevant experience in semiconductor industry. To succeed in this role, you'll need to be knowledgeable in BAAN, Intrack, DWH functions and use. You'll also need to demonstrate excellent management and leadership skills. Managerial experience and effective communication skills are required.

Chief/Sr./ Test Product Engineer

You'll be responsible for bringing engineering solutions for Codec, Micro controllers, DSP, Silicon Tuners, and Power Management products. This includes leading technical solutions for Yield Improvement, Test Time Reduction and Quality Programs. You'll work with various users group on DFT, Hardware standardization and DFM.

You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience as Senior Test/Product engineer in the semiconductor industry. To succeed in this role, you'll need to have strong background in Digital and Mixed Signal test methodology. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical or problem solving skills especially in the area of product testing. Hands-on experience on Teradyne and Agilent ATE is an advantage.

Chief/Sr./ RF Test Engineers

You'll be responsible for bringing engineering solutions for GSM/DECT transceivers, Bluetooth, WLAN, MOPIL products. This includes leading technical solutions for Yield Improvement, Test Time Reduction and Quality Programs. You'll work with various users group on DFT, Hardware standardization and DFM.

You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience as Senior Test/Product engineer in the semiconductor industry. To succeed in this role, you'll need to have strong background in RF testing methodology. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical or problem solving skills especially in the area of product testing. Hands-on experience on Teradyne Microtune, UTxSynchro/Fusion and Agilent RF ATE is an advantage.

Senior Design Engineers

You'll be responsible for Layout/PCB designs for RF, Mixed Signal and VLSI products. This includes preparation of PSC Assembly design, PCB fabrication drawing, Gerber generation and other related documentation. You'll gather design criteria from customers and provide final design solutions by collaborating with colleagues in the department. You'll work closely with Engineering, Documentation and Project Management groups. You'll coordinate with customers and suppliers to resolve PCB fabrication issues.

You'll need to have a degree in Electronics Engineering with relevant experience CAD design. To succeed in this role, you'll need to have strong background in layout board design. You'll also need to demonstrate effective organizational, time management and prioritizing skills. Hands-on experience on Cadsoft, PADS Power PCB or Protel99 SE will be an advantage.

Test Network Engineer

You will be involved in the entire software development life cycle. This includes, application development, implementation, maintenance, documentation and post implementation review.

You'll need to have a degree in Computer Engineering or Computer Science with at least 3 years minimum relevant experience. To succeed in this role, you'll need to have a strong background in windows and Unix platforms, Java, J2EE, Perl/CGI and with good database exposure (Oracle, PL/SQL/MSQL). You must also have excellent communication skills. A team player and should be able to meet deadlines.

Shared Services Corporate (SSC) Buyer

Your main task is to ensure that all SAs and KPs of SSC and the continuity and timeliness of supply, information and support with each of the 12 sites are fulfilled and achieve. This includes, transactional activities in purchasing like PO generations, PO confirmation, PO change management, invoice/payment issue resolution, etc.

You'll need to have a degree in Engineering and/or business related courses. To succeed in this role you must possess excellent skills in customer service, especially in a multi-cultural environment and must have excellent communication skills with proficiency in 1 or more of the following language: English, German, French, Dutch, Mandarin, Japanese. Very good computer skills, preferably with knowledge in SAP MM Module and you must be willing to work on shifts.

Financial Analyst

You'll be responsible in the timely and accurate preparation of payroll. This includes accounting function related to payroll activities and cashing function.

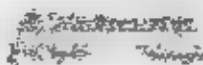
You'll need to have a degree in Accountancy with relevant experience in a manufacturing firm. To succeed in this role, you'll need to have an extensive knowledge in Payroll and Taxation, can work under pressure and can meet tight deadlines. You'll also need to demonstrate effective analytical skills with excellent communication skills.

Please send your comprehensive resumé indicating your contact number with photo to:

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- Preferably graduate of any medical allied course, but not required
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- In depth knowledge of medical transcription guidelines, practices and procedures (The AAMT Book of Style)
- Must have an above average command of the English language including usage, grammar, punctuation and style.
- Should be able to lead, supervise and mentor other medical transcriptionists
- Must be willing to work fulltime and in rotating shifts
- Able to edit a minimum of 1500 lines per day

Operations Manager

- Graduate of any medical allied course
- Must have at least 2-3 years managerial/team leader experience in the field of medical transcription
- Proven leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills. Can communicate effectively with people in different levels of the organization
- Capable in handling a group of large groups within high quality requirements
- High tolerance for stress and strong sense of urgency, strategic thinker, well-organized and analytical
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be willing to work fulltime and in rotating shifts
- Must have the ability to conceptualize plans and technical solutions to deal with the wide array of needs
- Must have an excellent project management, organizational, and time-management skills with demonstrated initiative
- Must have the ability to work and manage in a development environment

Send your resume via email at HRD@summit.com or fax it to (02) 810-3428.



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| Construction Engineer | HVAC Engineer |
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| BOCAD Administrator / designer | |
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| PDS Designer / Administrator | Procurement Coordinator |
| PDS Engineer / Operator | Dimension Surveyor |
| Electrical Engineer / Designer | QA/QC Inspector/Engineer |
| Instrument Engineer / Designer | Welding Inspector (CSWIP 3.1) |
| Mechanical Engineer / Designer | Painting Inspector (NACE) |
| Architectural Engineer / Designer | BOCAD Operator |
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Qualifications: 10-15 years work experience 5 of which are in Seafood Sales & Marketing function; has a wide network & an existing client base. College degree or college level. Knowledge in frozen seafood processing & packaging technology an advantage. This position will travel at least 75% of the time.

Project Management Manager

The successful candidate shall assist the President in developing business plans, planning individual projects, shall coordinate with various divisions in the implementation of the overall Business Plan, develop Key Performance Indicators, analyze business performance through financial reports and translate to executive summaries and management reports.

Qualifications: 5 years or above experience in Finance related function, project management and/or business development, of which at least 3-4 years in managerial level. Experience in managing finance function is an advantage. College graduate in business administration, Finance or related discipline. MBA, CPA are advantages. Willing to travel, open to relocation.

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CREBA to launch 2006 annual convention

THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE AND BUILDERS' ASSOCIATIONS (CREBA), will launch its annual national convention during the Chamber's monthly business meeting on July 27, 12 noon at the Intercontinental Hotel. According to CREBA's vice president for public relations, Editha L. Manansala, the highlight of the kick-off ceremony will be the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among its convention partners, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Tourism, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Board of Investments, and Philippine Retirement Authority.

Among the topics lined-up for the three-day convention are BOI Incentives, Ownership Aspects of the Dual Citizenship Law, Tourism Thrusts, Global Trends on Real Estate Investment, Use of Retirement funds for Corporate Housing, and Pag-IBIG Funding Programs.

The real estate convention held annually by CREBA will be held on Oct. 19; 20 and 21, at the Camp John Hay, Baguio, with its theme: "Pro-active Response to Property Trends and Opportunities"

Techu Bautista, CREBA convention chair for this year, said that aside from providing participants the rare opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Camp John Hay, the convention more importantly aims to provide the forum for real estate stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gathering momentum in the world's real estate market and the response thereto by CREBA and its convention partners.

Pete Tario, CREBA's president said that the annual CREBA National Convention is the housing sector's contribution to this national effort of nation-building, by providing a national forum through which the stakeholders in the housing and real estate sector shall address current housing issues. As the acknowledged mouthpiece of the industry, CREBA firmly declares that together with its partners, it is at the forefront in responding to property trends and opportunities.

Interested participants may call CREBA secretariat at 373-22-70 to 75.

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- Preferably graduate of any four-year course
- With excellent communication skills in English
- Must have strong comprehension and listening skills

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- Senior Agent Talent Acquisition Specialist
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- Workforce Planning Manager
- Workforce Planning Specialists
- Coordinator, Human Capital Delivery
- Senior Generalist, Human Capital Delivery
- Human Capital Delivery Manager
- Site Director

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July 24-28, 2006

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2. Write down your TeleTech Language Assessment identification number.
3. Apply online at

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Call Center Representative (Inbound / Outbound)

- Graduate of business, finance, pharmacy or other related courses
- Work experience in any of the following industries: financial, banking, pharmaceutical, automotive
- At least 3 months experience in the call center industry preferred
- Excellent conversation, listening, and comprehension skills in any of the following languages: English, Mandarin/Cantonese, Spanish
- Comfortable in using computer software applications and website navigation

Assistant Operations Manager

- Bachelor's / College Degree holder in Business, Marketing or other related courses
- With post graduate degree or units preferred
- At least 5 years experience in the Call Center Industry, 2 years of which in a managerial capacity handling multiple campaigns, both inbound and outbound
- Experience in campaign implementations / set-up

Quality Development Associate

- Bachelor's / College degree in any field
- At least 1 year call center experience, 6 months of which in a quality role
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Knowledge of proper coaching techniques
- Knowledge of quality monitoring process

Team Leader

- Bachelor's / College Degree holder in Business, Marketing or other related courses
- At least 1 year related work experience in the call center industry
- Have handled both inbound and outbound international account
- Strong English verbal and written communication skills REQUIRED
- Understanding of US business culture, geography and demographics REQUIRED

Implementations / Account Manager

- Bachelor's / College Degree holder in Business, Marketing or other related courses
- With post graduate degree or units preferred
- At least 5 years experience in the Call Center Industry, 2 years of which in a managerial capacity handling multiple campaigns, both inbound and outbound
- Experience in planning and participating in client

Trainer

- Bachelor's/College Degree holder in Business, Psychology or related courses
- At least 2 years experience as a Trainer, 1 year of which in the call center industry
- Knowledge about TNA, curriculum design, and training evaluation
- Knowledge about OD preferred
- Has worked as a Call Center Agent or Team Leader
- Excellent English communication and presentation skills REQUIRED

Please send resumé to:

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(Please paste your text resumé to the body of the email.)

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- Computer Literate
- Knowledge in AutoCAD is a plus

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- Electrician
- AC Technician
- Forklift Operator
- Batch Plant Operator
- Machine Installer
- Welder
- Boiler Operator / Technician
- Material Controller
- Loader Operator
- Rigger
- Plumber
- Reverse Osmosis Operator (R/O)
- Telephone Technician

Qualifications:

- Male not more than 32 years old
- Graduate of any related vocational course / College Level
- With minimum of six (6) months related experience

POWERPLANT STAFF

- Male not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical / Electrical Engineering or Basic Seaman Course
- With or without license
- Must have a basic computer knowledge
- Willing to work long hours and night shift schedule

Experience in a day-to-day operation & maintenance of a power generator plant (checking of diesel engines, power generators and control panels) is an advantage.

Interested applicants must bring bio-data / resumé with 2x2 picture, diploma, Transcript of Records and SSS Employment History at:

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3. Extremely personable
4. Articulate and proficient in oral and written excellent English
5. Can work very long hours and can freely travel overseas on a moment's notice, lugging his or her laptop
6. Computer savvy
7. Must possess the highest standards of professionalism, commitment to duty and loyalty

Those who do not meet the above requirements and those who have applied before with PAGCOR need not apply.

Please submit comprehensive resume and college transcript together with your photograph as well as samples of written work or essay to:

THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Office of the Chairman and CEO
5th Floor, PAGCOR Corporate Offices
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Malate, Manila

IT Associate

World Vision

World Vision International - Asia Regional Office, is an international Christian relief and development organization is currently looking for candidates who will provide a variety of complex technical, administrative, and trouble-shooting work in the development, installation and maintenance of information technology systems.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

IT Administrator

- Perform complex computer maintenance work troubleshooting, maintaining, and repairing computers, peripherals, and/or development, data communication or computer network systems.
- Monitor corporate servers; Develop solutions to improve server performance and reliability.
- Modify, install and maintain system and application software on computer systems; Monitor the software requirements of staffs to ensure adequate services are provided.
- Provide support services to computer operations and service groups in all aspects of corporate server use; Assist staff and other computing personnel on all aspects of operating systems and support application.
- Develop and implement preventive maintenance programs including daily backup operations.
- Performs related duties and responsibilities as required.

WV Program System Support

- Provide technical support to various offices by performing basic troubleshooting, verifying incident issues and responding to queries.
- Document incident reports with the WV Program System related application issues.
- Execute testing of patch releases from WV Program System development team and confirm resolution against issues received.
- Maintain and document WV Program System application patch releases issued to various offices.

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

The following knowledge, skills, and abilities may be acquired through a combination of formal schooling, self-education, prior work experience, or on-the-job training:

- A degree in computer science or a related computer discipline, or equivalent work experience is required.
- Three years of increasingly responsible experience in information technology or related field.
- Preferably with experience in Lotus Domino administration and CISCO PIX Firewall.
- Extensive knowledge of information technology, management information systems and processing practices.
- Considerable knowledge of the general principles of computer systems operation such as local area networks (LAN), data and voice communication, client/server network protocols and internet/intranet applications.
- Good knowledge of general programming techniques as applied to electronic data processing equipment.
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, with business and technical audiences.
- Ability to make sound decisions in a manner consistent with the essential job functions.
- Excellent independent and interpersonal work skills.

Please send CV by e-mail to Ms. Lorna Andres at lorna_andres@wvi.org on or before 31 July 2006. Only short listed candidates will be notified. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.



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Alternately, you may e-mail your resume to hr_manila@suth.com

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GEOLOGISTS

Applicants are invited to join PhilSaga Mining Corporation, an expanding gold producer that takes pride in being an integral part of its local community through school and educational programs encompassing 8 local schools, rehabilitation projects, health and other community programs. As one of the largest taxpayers to local governments it contributes significantly to the development of community facilities.

The company provides high quality on site accommodation and recreational facilities with regular leave arrangements. The challenges involve servicing operating underground mines and exploring a large tenement portfolio for high grade veins and porphyry copper-gold deposits.

RESIDENT MANAGING GEOLOGIST

Senior staff position for a Filipino geologist with managerial experience to join the management team. This challenging position involves managing the large tenement portfolio, and an expanding team of 6 geologists and experienced support personnel.

Qualities sought include:

- Being able to communicate effectively with national and international staff;
- Ability to train younger technical personnel and ensure quality control;
- Some experience in narrow vein mining an advantage;
- An understanding of computerized data base systems;
- An ability to think laterally, be self starting, responsible, and have the ability to plan on-going programs, write concise reports and undertake budgeting; and
- A desire to be a team member with the team goal of being successful.

A very competitive salary is available to the right person with additional incentives linked to the Company's success.

FIELD GEOLOGISTS

Three experienced or new graduate field geologists are required to undertake distinctly field work.

Qualities sought include:

- An ability to work in a team and be willing to learn and apply good work practices;
- Have the ability or desire to work with the minimum of supervision;
- Have a working knowledge of data bases and data entry procedures;
- Be able to undertake or learn mapping, sampling programs, drill rig management and drill core logging, report writing and other complementary activities.

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Office Engineer



For almost four decades, ATLAS COPCO (PHILIPPINES), INC. has lived up to its commitment of providing world-class productivity solutions to major industries – be it manufacturing, mining, automotive and power generation. This year, the company continues to expand by bringing in innovative products, opening up new provincial offices, recruiting and training additional sales and service personnel and launching highly interactive customer relationship marketing programs.

To ensure continual success in the industry we are recruiting one (1) Office Engineer for Industrial Air Division to handle its growing business. To qualify, you must have the following attributes:

- Engineering Degree from any reputable academic institution, preferably with PRC License
- Excellent Verbal and Written Communication Skills
- Knowledgeable in Computer Applications
- Ability to relate well to all levels in the organization
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Young and Energetic

All these make ATLAS COPCO indeed the First in Mind – First in Choice™ among various stakeholders.

To be a part of our World-Class Team, you may submit your comprehensive resume not later than July 29, 2006 to:

ATLAS COPCO (PHILIPPINES) INC.
Main Office:
Km. 15, South Superhighway
Paranaque City 1700
E-mail: Eric.Alfonso@ph.atlascopco.com

Attention: **Eric Alfonso**
Sales Manager – Industrial Air Division

Atlas Copco is a world leading provider of industrial productivity solutions. The products and services range from compressed air and gas equipment, generators, construction and mining equipment, industrial tools and assembly systems, to related aftermarket and rental. In close cooperation with customers and business partners and with more than 130 years of experience, Atlas Copco innovates for superior productivity. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, the Group's global reach spans more than 150 markets. In 2005, Atlas Copco had 27,000 employees and revenues of BSEK 53, MEUR 5600. Learn more on www.atlascopco.com

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NETVET ANIMAL PRODUCTS is a fast growing distributor of licensed animal health products. Our company is in need of:

(2) TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry, Doctor of veterinary medicine or any allied courses, not more than 30 yrs old with good scholastic records
- Previous corporate sales experience in a veterinary company a must
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Required skill(s): driving skills, excellent customer service, good interpersonal relations
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Full time positions available

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES MAY PERSONALLY BRING THERE CURRICULUM VITAE NOT LATER THAN 8 AUG. 2006 AT

NETVET ANIMAL PRODUCTS
WEST CITY PLAZA BLDG.
6TH FLOOR, RM. 508, 866 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY



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To make our customers special, we need people who are above the ordinary. Who understand the value of opportunities, cross functional jobs, world class training and collaboration with the talent from across the world. Who are astute enough to know the difference between a short-term job and a long-term career opportunity.

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We are looking for college or vocational course graduates, with excellent English communication skills, adept in computers, and preferably those with good background in Tourism, Foreign Service, International Studies, and other related courses. Prior experience in the Travel industry (i.e. as a reservation agent with good travel training and familiarity with IATA) is an advantage. Experience in upselling and cross-selling is also an advantage. S/he should have high comprehension, must be an active listener and a critical thinker.

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Qualifications:

1. Must belong to the top quartile of his or her class and/or have placed among the top 10 in the CPA board
2. Preferably single, not more than 35 years old
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4. Articulate and proficient in oral and written excellent English
5. Can work very long hours and can freely travel overseas on a moment's notice, lugging his or her laptop
6. Computer savvy
7. Must possess the highest standards of professionalism, commitment to duty and loyalty

Those who do not meet the above requirements and those who have applied before with PAGCOR need not apply.

Please submit comprehensive resume and college transcript together with your photograph as well as samples of written work or essay to:

THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Office of the Chairman and CEO
5th Floor, PAGCOR Corporate Offices
Hyatt Hotel & Casino Manila
M. H. del Pilar corner Pedro Gil
Malate, Manila

We Are Looking for YOU!

TXN Unlimited Corp. is a dynamic and young company engaged in the importation, distribution, and marketing of premium quality food products to supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hotels, and restaurants.

Sales Supervisor

We are currently looking for aged 27 to 35, preferably female, applicants who have graduated from any 4-year course from a reputable school, with excellent communication skills, with minimum 1 year experience in leading a sales team, with at least 3 years proven track record working in sales, willing to work in the field, and is outgoing.

Please send
Comprehensive Resume
ID photo
to sales@transaxn.com

Or mail at
801A First Marcel Properties
926 G. Araneta Ave.
Quezon City



A leading life insurance company is expanding its sales operation and is in need of:

- ☐ Direct Sales Agents
- ☐ Corporate Sales Agents
- ☐ Insurance Broker/Agency

Requirements:

- ☐ At least college level
- ☐ Willing to undergo in-house training
- ☐ With pleasing personality, articulate and with persuasive skills.
- ☐ Actuarial Assistant, Actuarial Science graduate with experience.
- ☐ Assistant Programmer, Computer Science graduate with experience.

For interested applicants, please contact
tel. no 528-0258 or e-mail us at
b1ife_rtl@tri-ls.com

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TO ESTABLISH A NEW BRANCH

- Female
- 21-26 years old
- Graduate of any business
- Newly Graduate may apply

Please send comprehensive resume,
records of grades,
2/2x2 ID pictures to:

UP P.O. Box 15 Diliman,
Quezon City, 1104

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Give answers, close sales, and provide solutions to customers of top companies in telecommunications, finance, and entertainment.

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(Makati or Ortigas)
Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

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(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)
Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier Internet service providers get back online.

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A financial program supporting the world's leading financial services organization and the largest issuer of credit cards in the US. Support includes but not limited to account status, disputes, balance transfers, rate, fraud, card product information, cash advances, payments, general account maintenance, cross selling.

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE - COLLECTIONS

An outbound program that supports the world's leading credit collections company. Support includes status notifications and retrieval of outstanding payments. Dollar incentives are awarded to high-performing agents.

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, as a walk-in applicant and experience faster processing or e-mail your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com

Training Graduation Bonus will be awarded exclusively to walk-in applicants who will be hired for our July Alabang classes.

For our Commonwealth applicants, we are also open for walk-ins on July 25, Saturday, from 9am to 6pm.

Apply at our Ortigas site from July 27-28 for a chance to win an MP3 player and other prizes!

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Delgado Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City 1101
Tel: 862-1100

Makati Office
Convergys, Don Cora
Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo
Valley, Makati 1226
Tel: 862-1100

Alabang Office
4th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
Robinsons Road, Alabang
Tel: 862-1100

Ortigas Office
Block 44, Northwood
Cyberzone, Ortigas
Tel: 862-1100

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
150 España Boulevard,
Pasig City
Tel: 862-1100

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

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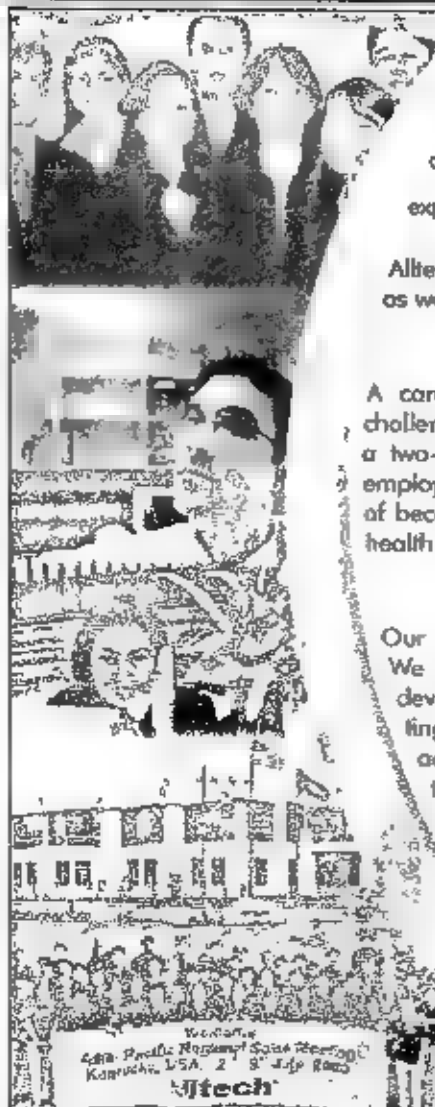
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A career at Alltech offers new, exciting and challenging opportunities. We have grown from a two-man operation to a company that now employs over 1500. Today, we are in the process of becoming one of the leading animal health companies in the world.

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At Alltech, we provide a platform for you to be innovative, passionate, pioneering and successful.

Select your area of interest and submit your updated resume with cover letter and send to
Email: amhemandez@alltech.com or fax: 807-1854.

WAREHOUSE MAN (LUZON)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Timely delivery of products to customers, and execute proper handling and storage of inventories
- Ensure product and warehouse safety
- Preparation and submission of required report such as:
Inventory report which includes information on samples, damaged repacked, cleaned, expired and expiring products, and tables ensuring reconciliation of inventory count versus accounting books
- Delivery Report with information on products released, delivered and received.
- Ensure cleanliness of the warehouse and its premises
- Responsible for truck maintenance
- Responsible for safe and organize storage of office files
- Responsible for the receiving of product shipment, safe unloading of products, and forklift operation
- Quarterly Physical Count of Inventories in the presence of Accounting, Logistics Coordinator and Office Manager

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE MUST HAVE

- College level or Vocational graduate. College graduate an advantage
- 3 to 5 years work experience
- Capable of expressing himself both oral and written English
- Proven and effective Multi-task skills
- Professional Driver's License holder with sufficient years of driving experience
- Knowledgeable in the use of computer programs and software

We will only respond to qualified candidates.

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naturally

MAKATI - BASED I.T. COMPANY NEEDS:

(1) OPERATIONS MANAGER - to oversee technical operations involving computer operations, equipment installation and maintenance, and field support. Experience in work planning, operations monitoring, and systems improvement is ideal.

(1) LEGAL ASST. - Law graduate with 1-2 years experience in a law firm or legal department; to assist in contract preparation & monitoring liaison with government agencies, registration compliance requirements, notarial register administration.

(1) ADMIN ASST. - graduate of Accounting, Finance, or Business course. General Accounting skills are needed for accounts payable bookkeeping, cash disbursement, purchasing, and asset inventory.

(3) NETWORK ENGINEERS - graduate of ECE, or Computer Science/ Eng'g; knowledgeable in network systems, operating systems, and PC hardware; and willing to be trained in converged network services.

Please submit Resume with photo and transcript of records via email to hr@apolloglobal.net or mail to APOLLO GLOBAL CORPORATION, Santa Ana Park, AP Reyes Avenue, Makati.

GOOD JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

AIRCON & ELECTRICAL SPECIALISTS

- Male, 25 to 38 years old
- Must be a graduate of Mechanical / Automotive Engineering / Industrial Technology or any related course
- With good technical background
- Service-oriented, responsible and with people handling skills
- Knows how to drive and with valid driver's license an advantage

FIELD SALES

- Male or female, not more than 35 years old
- With at least five (5) years experience in selling tires/tubetracks
- With good communication skills
- Residents of Manila, Quezon City, Pasig, Laguna, Batangas may also apply

Qualified applicants may personally submit bio-data/resume at:

**GOODYEAR HI-PERFORMANCE CENTER
HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**
Alabang Zapote Road, Almazora Uno, Las Pilas City
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- fresh graduate/equivalent experience of any Engineering course or Interior Design
- good interpersonal and communication skills
- computer literate
- willing to do field work
- hardworking, trustworthy, organized and with pleasing personality
- independent and can work with minimal supervision
- female/male between 21 to 25 years old

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resume with recent 2x2 photo and other related documents to:

45-B Philand Drive, Brgy. Pasong Tamo,
Tandang Sora, Q.C. 11 6
Tel# 951-4130 to 32

Or thru: juicysmile@yahoo.com



Autohaus BMW, an exclusive authorized BMW dealer of cars and motorcycles, is looking for high-caliber personnel prepared to take on bigger challenges.

Sales Executives

Qualifications:

- Male / Female
- 22 – 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Experience in car dealerships an advantage

Interested applicants may send their resume to hrd@autohausbmw.com.ph or apply in person to:

The Human Resources Department
Autohaus BMW
184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City
Tel. No. 638 0734 loc. 120

A leading universal bank is now searching for new breed of leaders to join its

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The MDP is designed for a particular constituency promising young professionals who can be trained and developed into strong, enterprising and value-laden career middle managers who can collectively help the bank realize its charter mandate and corporate objectives, and become future leaders and managers.

Candidates/participants must possess the following minimum requirements:

- Not more than 35 years of age with a Bachelor's degree in any discipline preferably a business degree;
- Must have at least 2 years of relevant experience in Bank operations/functions *plus* any of the following:
 - Has graduated with honors/University GPA (Grade Point Average) or QPI (Quality Point Index) meeting the "honors" class or alternatively, the top 5% of the graduating class; or
 - Holds an MBA or any masteral degree relevant to Bank operations/functions.

Interested applicants may send their resume at managementdevelopmentprogram@yahoo.com.ph or P.O. Box # 2284

Deadline of submission: July 28, 2006.

IRRI

International Rice Research Institute
Human Resource Services - National Staff

The Social Sciences Division invites applicants for the position:

Systems Analyst - Programmer (2006-R-11)

in the Geographic Information Systems and Image Processing (GIS-IP) Laboratory

BASIC PURPOSE: The successful candidate shall be responsible for designing and developing computer programs for the analysis of geospatial (GIS) data. He/she shall also be responsible for the development and maintenance of the GIS-IP Laboratory's database and ensure their effective utilization in research projects. Participates in research, training and technical support.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Designs and develops desktop and internet based computer applications with an emphasis on geospatial data processing and analysis. 20%
2. Designs and manages spatial databases. 10%
3. Conducts research and provides research support to colleagues and collaborators. 0%
4. Keeps abreast with advances and new developments in geospatial technology. 10%
5. Contributes to the laboratory's website. 0%
6. Provides training and technical support. 5%
7. Performs all other related duties that may be assigned from time to time. 5%

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Education: At least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, or at least a Bachelor's degree in Geography or other relevant field.

Experience required: Five years experience in programming, preferably in the context of research and geospatial data analysis.

Skills and abilities: Programming skills: Programming skills in multiple languages and technologies including Java, JavaScript, PHP, Python, C++, C, Perl, etc. Database skills: Strong database design and operation skills. Good knowledge of DBMS/SQL, preferably experience with MySQL and PostgreSQL. Geospatial Skills: Understanding of spatial data structures and principles of spatial data analysis (GIS and related concepts). Knowledge of GIS applications in natural resource management. Communication Skills: Strong written and oral communication skills, and interpersonal skills. Can work independently and in a team.

Application: Qualified candidates can submit letter of application, comprehensive resume, transcript of records, copies and contact details of 3 referees to: Myrra Berville C. Pablo at the HRSS Office, IRRI Building, IRRI Los Baños, Laguna or email to MBPablo@irri.org. They can also mail application with complete requirements to:

Applied position (Job Reference Code)
Human Resource Services - National Staff
International Rice Research Institute
DAPO Box 7777 Metro Manila

* Screening will start on 08 August 2006 and shall continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

A Filipino-owned construction firm will be engaged in a Local & Foreign Assisted Projects has an immediate hiring for the following positions:

PROJECT MANAGER

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Responsible, Self-motivated & has good time management skills
- At least 10 yrs. experience in general construction

PROJECT ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS

- Male, 28-32 years old
- Licensed Civil Engineer & Architect
- Relevant 5-8 yrs. work experience in project implementation of Building & Subdivision.

SITE ENGINEER/SAFETY ENGINEER

- Male, 25-30 years old
- Engineering (CE) or Architectural graduate
- Preferably with 5 yrs. work experience in jobsite
- Willing to work extended hours

Qualified applicants may submit their application w/ their comprehensive resume w/ 2x2 ID picture or may fax or e-mail their resume w/ picture to:

The Personnel & Administration Department
GCBI

Suite 204 2nd Flr. Security Bank Bldg.
Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City
EMAIL: gsen@holmail.com / gsen88@yahoo.com
TEL. No. (632) 95- 6608 Fax. No. (632) 952-4480

UE

The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES-MANILA

has openings for faculty members—
School Year 2007 -2008.

Applicants must have these qualifications:

- Earned degrees in Master of Business Administration (MBA) with undergraduate degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management or
- Earned MS degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management
- Preferably with 1-2 years actual experience in the hotel and restaurant business.

Qualified applicants are requested to bring their original Transcript of Records and Diploma (both in Master's and Bachelor's degrees).

For more details, please see the CAS Manila Dean for an initial interview
G/F CAS Building, 2219 C.M. Recto Ave. Manila
Tel. nos. 735-5471 locals 368 and 369.
735-8539, email: caslores_cas@yahoo.com

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pamantasan Complex, Constitution Halls
Quezon City
Telephone No. 831-8 01 to 07

NOTICE OF VACANCY

In compliance with the provisions of RA 7041, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has vacant supervising Administrative Officer positions with the following qualification standards:

SUPERVISING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SG-22, with Issu Nos. OSEC-DSWDB-SADOF 21-2004 and OSEC-DSWDB-SADOF-22-2004 (Human Resource Management and Development Division)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Education | Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral/Social Science or Management; preferably with Masters degree or with Masters units |
| Experience | At least three (3) years experience in organization development, career development, staff development, recruitment and personnel management.
At least two (2) years in positions involving management and supervision |
| Training | At least 16 hours training in areas of career and staff development, organization development, personnel management, and management & supervision |
| Eligibility | Career Service Professional Eligibility, Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/Career Executive Service Eligibility (CESE) an advantage |

Interested applicants may submit their application and comprehensive resume with 2x2 ID picture to Director Maria Angela S. Gopalan of the Human Resource Management and Development Service not later than August 4, 2006. Submission by email (cpdd@dsowd.gov.ph) is encouraged.

(Sgd.) MARIE ANGELA S. GOPALAN

Human Resource Management and Development Service



HIRE & KEEP, Inc.

Unit 2005, Jefferson Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center,
Pasig City, Tel. Nos.: (632) 635-2842 / (632) 635-2843
Email: apply_hays@hik.com.ph

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GEOLOGISTS / MINING ENGINEERS
CIVIL ENGINEERS / MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES / CALL CENTER AGENTS
SALESMEN / TRUCK DRIVERS



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Experience in HMOs and/or Insurance an advantage.
Analytical & keen on details.
Good grasp of medical terminologies.
Excellent communication skills & willing to work night shifts.

SHIFT MANAGER

Preferably Nursing graduate. Other life-science courses also considered.
With at least 2 years management experience in a call center environment.
Experience in HMOs and/or Insurance an advantage.
Strong leadership and people management skills.
Excellent English communication skills.
Great interpersonal and customer service skills.
Willingness to work graveyard shift.



TEAM LEADERS

Preferably graduates of Nursing or from any Life Sciences.
Excellent communication skills & willing to work night shifts.
Good grasp of medical terminologies.
Supervisory & administrative experience a must.
Has people management & customer service skills.
Analytical and keen on details.
Has experience as Team Leader or as Subject Matter Expert.
Experience in HMOs and/or Insurance an advantage.

LINE TRAINERS

Preferably graduates of Nursing, or from any Life Sciences.
Experience in HMOs and/or Insurance an advantage.
Excellent communication skills & willing to work night shifts.
Analytical and keen on details.
Good platform & customer service skills.
Must have knowledge in Training Needs Analysis.
Training Design and Evaluation.
Able to conduct training intervention.

HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES

NURSING GRADUATES preferred.
Medicine, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy,
Med Tech preferred among life science related graduates.
Excellent communication and customer service skills.
Willing to work night shifts.
Fast learner with good analytical, problem solving and mathematical skills.
Experience in HMOs and/or Insurance an advantage.



Mondays thru Fridays
HTMT Cyberpark

44 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Brgy. Ugong Norte, Quezon City
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Email us at: hr@c-cubehtmt.com



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- Female, Registered at least 2 yrs experience
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- Excellent customer relations skills
- Computer literate
- Proficient in the English Language with good oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with flexible schedule

TWO (2) MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

- Degree in Medical Technologists
- Valid PRC license/Med Tech. Certification
- Computer literate
- Excellent in oral and interpersonal skills

FINANCE HEAD

- Certified Public Accountant
- Minimum of two (2) years working experience in supervisory position
- Not more than 30 years old
- Proficient in general accounting, budgeting & cash flow management
- Computer literate
- Ability to work with flexible schedule

Submit resume to:

Human Resources Department
Fortmed Medical Clinics
3F Equitable Bank Bldg., Pasop de Roxas cor
San Gil Puyal Ave., Makati City
or send it thru e-mail at: hr@fortmed.com.ph

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725-3648/019-3436630

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Ortigas Ave., Pasig City (632) 831-4883; Tel Aviv, (832) 638-4774
Tel: 63917-8188150; Email: standard@philippineembassy.com
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GLOBIS

Globis Incorporated, The Country's Premier
Color Management Solutions Provider
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Qualifications:
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Interested parties may send their resumes w/ a recent ID picture to:
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Tel Nos. 7405761-55 Email: globisinc@gmail.com
Visit our corporate website at: http://www.globisinc.com

DRIVER MECHANIC

MALE

Below 30 years old

REQUIREMENTS:

Resume, 2x2 picture, Transcript of Record,
NBI / Police Clearance, Employment
Certificate & Medical Certificate

Willing to undergo extensive training and
willing to be assigned anywhere in the
Philippines

Please send thru mail at:

100 Anahaw St.,
Veterans Village, Proj. 7, Quezon City

TEKNOKONSTRUKT, INC.

is in need of the ff:

1. PROJECT ENGINEERS

Male, registered CE or EE (5 yrs. exp)
Computer literate with knowledge in
AutoCAD

2. ADMIN/ACCTS. CLERK

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What to do when bad luck hounds you

MY FRIENDS AND OFFICE mates tell me that I am very pessimistic. In everything that I do, I seem to see a negative outcome. Perhaps, it is because of my modest beginnings. I was born of poor parents, studied in public schools and was a working student during college in the university belt. I was not a great student in school and did not graduate from college. In school, I was practically near the bottom of the class. I started working as a messenger 10 years ago. Today, I still belong to what they call the "rank and file."

I have many failures in my life. These, plus my background, could have accounted for my pessimistic outlook in life. Can you give me some tips on how to be more optimistic in life?

Bad Luck Boy

I notice that even your choice of pen name is somewhat negative. I can't blame you for feeling negative about life because of your many failures. If it is any consolation, I have not met anybody who has no failure in life, one way or the other. I wish you could have told me about your successes too. I am sure your failures might be so overwhelming that you tend to forget that you too, had successes, no matter how few, small, and far in between. You can start by not selling yourself short again.

You are alive

Here are a few thoughts and tips that might help you change your outlook in life, from being pessimistic to more optimistic.

ASK YOUR
CAREER
COUNSELOR
Ernie O.
Cecilia

mistle to more optimistic

Never underestimate the fact that no matter how difficult life is, you are still alive today. Many who are better off than you in stature are now dead. The dead can no longer do anything but you still have a world of opportunities ahead.

As long as you live, there is always a chance that you can still succeed. Life isn't over until it's over. When you die, there is nothing you can do about it. At least, you have something to thank God for—you're still alive. That makes a lot of difference.

Life is what you make it

If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you can do it, you can. If you think you can't, you're also right. (I must have written these lines a dozen times, but I can't seem to overemphasize how important it is.)

Someone said that what you believe about life determines how you perceive life, which determines what you receive from life. If you believe that life is unfair, you'll probably get all the injustices that you've been watching out for. If you think life can be happy, you'll find happiness wherever you look for. Funny but in this life, we tend to get what we expect and look for. If you look for misery, it's every-

where. If you look for love, peace and prosperity, you'll find them, too.

The mind is powerful

Never underestimate the power of your mind. There are two entities living inside your mind—the Thinker and the Prover. Whatever the Thinker Jinks, the Prover tends to prove. Whenever you think you are going to be sick, sad or poor, the Prover begins to muster all your mental and bodily resources to ensure that whatever you think becomes true. Then you get sick, sad or poor. Conversely, when you think you are going to be healthy, happy and prosperous, the Prover inside your mind moves to give you health, happiness and prosperity. It's really your call.

It's not personal

When something bad happens to you, don't take it personally. Bad things also happen to good people. How you take it spells the difference. If you think that someone up there is taking it personally against you, be my guest. But, let me tell you, whatever happens to you can happen to the best of them.

Life is like a tennis game. When somebody serves you an ace, it's easy to blame yourself or the umpire. Perhaps it's the best shot that came your way. Prepare for the next serve and fight like you never did. Don't give up. It isn't because you just have all the bad luck in the world. Believe that you can do better next time, prepare and go for it.

Setbacks are temporary

Whenever you encounter a setback, treat it as temporary. Stop wishing that it did not happen. Stop living in the past. Look to the future—that's where you will spend



the rest of your life. So what if you failed this time? There's always a next time. Failure is not a permanent event.

Life must go on. If you want to avoid another setback, do something different. Someone defined insanity as "doing the same thing over and over, and expecting different results." If you take the same path that led you to failure, stop and find another path. If you go through the same path again, failure will surely await you at the end of that road.

Isolate your failures

Whenever you fail, isolate that particular incident. That failure is just a small part of your life. You are not the failure. What you did might have failed, but it is not the total of you that is the failure—only what

to happen. Don't leave anything to chance. Know what you must do to achieve the results you want. Don't be afraid of bad luck. Don't factor in good luck into your planning. The more prepared you are, the luckier you will get.

If you want something really that bad, you got to go after it. Stop wishing that it will happen. Cause it to happen.

When you know that you are making things happen, you will begin to develop a more optimistic outlook in life. Failures will not daunt and haunt you.

How to start winning

Here's a simple tip that will get you into the winners' circle. Start setting more reasonably achievable, but challenging goals. As you begin experiencing small wins, you will develop more confidence and optimism. When you start having small successes, winning becomes a habit.

To some people, winning is not the most important thing—it is the only thing. Winning is also contagious. So, if you want to win, associate with winners—not whiners.

(Public service announcement: "Trip on 2006, a grand alumni homecoming of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City, will be held on Sept. 9. Alumni from all levels are invited to attend. Please e-mail me for details.")

Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

'Does family background affect my getting hired?'

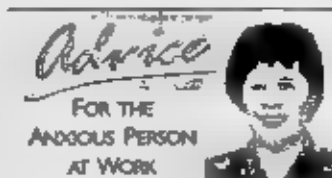
By Tita Datu Puangco

CAN A JOB APPLICANT'S family background or history affect his chances of getting hired? During the interview, the company can ask for the applicant's personal background or history. What happens if that applicant comes from a dysfunctional family? Would the company refuse to hire him because of that? Would a company prioritize applicants who have good family backgrounds? Please respond. Thanks

Anxious Applicant

First of all, I think there are other more important dimensions that an interviewer would look for when hiring. She or he is likely to assess the candidate in terms of suitability to the position applied for. The guide in most cases would be the job description or job specification. The interviewer is likely to surface critical incidents in terms of behavior based on your educational qualifications and student credentials if you are a fresh graduate. If you have worked before, the interviewer will probe your experiences at work.

I think coming from a dysfunctional



family becomes a liability if you allow it to pull you down. What is important is to personally reflect and process your family background and get learning from the experience. You cannot use it as a crutch or as an excuse for not being a fully functioning adult.

As children, we have little choice as to what to believe or take in terms of life experiences. One author even dares to say that "we are packaged in childhood." Our brain specifically our memory stores all of these as life scripts. But now that you are an adult, you can start to reframe or reinterpret yourself in terms of your beliefs and values, weeding out those that don't work, so that you can heal yourself and come out whole. Growing up from a dysfunctional family may not be ideal, but one can rise above the pains and hurts. What is needed is to accept the fact, not to feel inferior but instead feel empowered to live a life better moving forward.



What is important, as the advocates of transactional analysis, would say is to take the life position, "I am OK and you are OK" which is the healthy life position. Others tend to be superior taking the "I am OK and you are not OK" position, still others take the inferior position, "I am not OK and you are OK." But the worst position to take is the "I am not OK and you are not OK" position.

Personally, not hiring a person based simply on family background can be viewed as discrimination. Most interviewers do their best to be fair

and objective when selecting people to hire. Take care and God bless!

(Ms. Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. For your feedback, kindly e-mail: advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax: 892-2902. You may also check Ms. Puangco's blog at www.p.naynetwork.livjournal.com. For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)

Too busy with work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON AND MOST FREQUENT EXCUSES we give for failing to attend some important family celebrations or some of our clubs' membership gatherings, or even complying with our religious obligations is work. We get so busy with work that like Jesus and the apostles in today's Gospel, we would have "no opportunity even to eat." We either swarm our waking hours with real-time work overload—having double or triple jobs or prolonged overtime work—or, we clog our minds with excessive worry and concern over work that we lose our peace of mind and kind consideration for others. In such condition, we should pause a while to ask ourselves what is really the purpose of work in our lives? Why do we work, and where should our work lead us to?

It is important for every worker to heed Jesus' advice: "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." This is an invitation for everyone in the workplace to provide for himself a "deserted place" which is not necessarily a physical place in the work floor, but perhaps a "space" in one's mind and heart where he could be by himself and feel God's presence within him. This would need of course some kind of discipline in the worker to seize moments (even brief ones) throughout his rounds of work where he thinks of Jesus, "talk to Him" or simply feel his being—his own presence as distinct from his actions or things and materials he is working with.

These short "prayer moments" or shots of self-awareness, during work either done habitually by the individual worker or systematically integrated by the management in the work schedule, could provide the worker some kind of "rest" and could also improve his relationship with others and with God. (E-mail the author at mfv@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS
FOR THE
WORKING SOUL

Gospel Mk. 6: 30-34

He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.

What 'deserted place?'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCS

JESUS' ADVICE TO HIS DISCIPLES IN TODAY'S GOSPEL IS SOMETHING modern day workaholics would do well to heed. Find a "deserted place and rest a while." Take a break after a long stretch of frenetic activity. Even geniuses and machines need rest lest they break down—and, ironically, they do when they're most needed. We've been taught since childhood that it's noble to be a "man for others" but as today's Gospel, subtly affirms, even work that is done for others as the disciples did, needs a pause now and then. And not just a "prayer that refreshes" as a cigarette, a beer or a coke does to some—but a rest that is sought in "a deserted place."

What would this entail for us who are literally within touching distance of our coworkers eight hours a day? Does this mean we can just shut ourselves off from our surroundings in order to get that needed rest? Yes and no. Some of us may already have the will to do that several times a day but nonetheless, even the strongest among us still need that "deserted" resting place that Jesus speaks of. This is because the best rest for us is the one that totally empties us inside and outside. We are physical beings, affected by our senses and animate and inanimate presences around us, even memories and associations with past experiences can shape the course of a working day. Thus, for that rest that Jesus suggests, we must be removed from our place of work. A "deserted place" that is fresh and free from impressions painful or pleasurable would reconnect us with what is truly essential, give us a clear perception of the meaning behind our work, restore our balance, and renew us for true productivity in the future. (E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

Transitions are life changing experiences

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

TRANSITIONS. THEY ARE the stuff that life is made of. They color our lives from birth to death. We go through them painlessly or painfully, depending on how well we accept them as part of being alive. We either victoriously lord over them or cower helplessly under their control.

The word "transition" comes from the Latin word "transire" which means "to cross over," or "to go beyond." Coined in 1551, the word remains very much in modern day usage. For there seems to be no substitute word to describe the life phases all humans go through. A baby transitions from being an infant to a toddler, the young boy to a teenager, the single lady to a wife, the man to a father, on and on and on. The final transition is from life to death when we graduate to eternity.

A special kind of transition is when one moves from being employed to unemployed, or from being employed to retired. Within this category of

transitions is the often unexpected change brought about by retrenchment. Thrust into a situation where one is forced—often unwillingly—into a new career search, people who have been let go to face the unfamiliar territory of looking for a new job, starting a business, or retiring. All of these may be fraught with pain.

The idea of "going beyond" is one that can have a dramatic impact on how one views retrenchment and the transition that it brings about. When one goes beyond something, we think of someone able to pass through a hurdle, leap over an obstacle, land safely on another shore. We think of a triumphal crossing of the bar and moving on to wherever is the next stop.

Change and transition

Change triggers transitions. A change event starts off a transition process, the primary mechanism for the human spirit to deal with change. Transitions are necessary responses to change. They can either be painful or painless. Everyone decides how he or

she wants to transition.

Nothing seems to be truer of transitions than that one must go through them and eventually, one can actually succeed in going beyond them. As many of my retrenched clients will testify, career transition can be one of the most meaningful times of one's life—that is, if those who go through them fortify themselves with the faith and courage on which the ability to go beyond is anchored.

Transient and temporary

A related word, "transient" also comes from the same Latin root word. It characterizes transitions and denotes something temporary, fleeting, impermanent. Transitions are transient. Their very essence is movement from one point to another. They are never static nor permanent.

So, if the act of going beyond is transient, then there seems to be no sense in belaboring the grief, tarrying on what is past, and getting hooked on phantoms. To go beyond is to move forward, to forge ahead or to charge fear-

lessly into the unfamiliar.

Dealing with transitions

We can all benefit from facing transitions head-on, talking about them, understanding them, using them to our best advantage. We can make our inevitable transitions the life-changing experiences they are meant to be. We want to go through and beyond transitions with a sense of exhilaration and gratitude, rather than with pain and grief.

And, after we have moved on and then looked back to the time when we were standing at the threshold, we can say confidently, I have crossed the bar. I have gone beyond. I have leapt and landed safely on another shore.

(Cruz-Mante is a human resources and organization development practitioner, published writer, editor, trainer, and counselor. She is part-time career consultant at Drake Beam Morin and is also with the Interfaith Writers Group of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture. She recently launched "Biyaheng FX: Round Trips to Pinoy Life," published by Aniva Publishing and available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore.)



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MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA

GRABE YUNG NANG-YARI NUNG NILU-NOK KO YUNG MAGIC PILLS NI ATE WANDA!



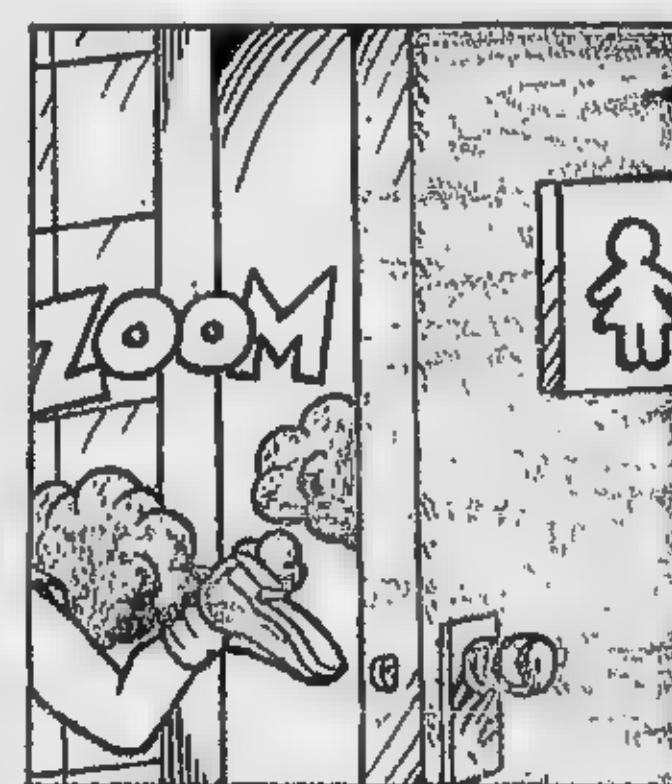
WELL, OKAY NA AKO, SAVE FOR THE FACT NA PINAGTITINGINAN AKO NG LAHAT NG MAKASALUBONG KO.



by the artfarm animation workshop



OMIGOSHI BAKIT UMIKLI ANG SKIRT AT UNIFORM KO? THIS IS, LIKE, 50000 EMBARRASSING! JUST WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!



OH NO! I'VE TURNED INTO A BUXOM TWENTY YEAR OLD KASI NAG-OVERDOSE AKO NG MAGIC PILLS NA BIGAY NI ATE WANDA!



TO BE CONTINUED...

LEAVES of GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS

Follow a new tale of romance and adventure!

Leaves of Glaz

Words by Cyan Abad-Jugo
Art by Maisa Deluria

Ciel
Sir Herberon's
14-year old daughter

King Soza
ruler of Glaz
whose wife

Queen Raina
wife of King Soza
recently deceased

Sir Herberon
Former knight
turned herbalist

Prince Adler
King Feun's
20-year old son

Maria Zendra
King Soza's
15-year old
daughter

Maria Yolande
King Soza's
17-year old daughter

Sir Grippa
Advisor to the King;
Queen Raina's brother

Almond
Primary of the
Verdis in Luna
forest; chief of
Raina's archers

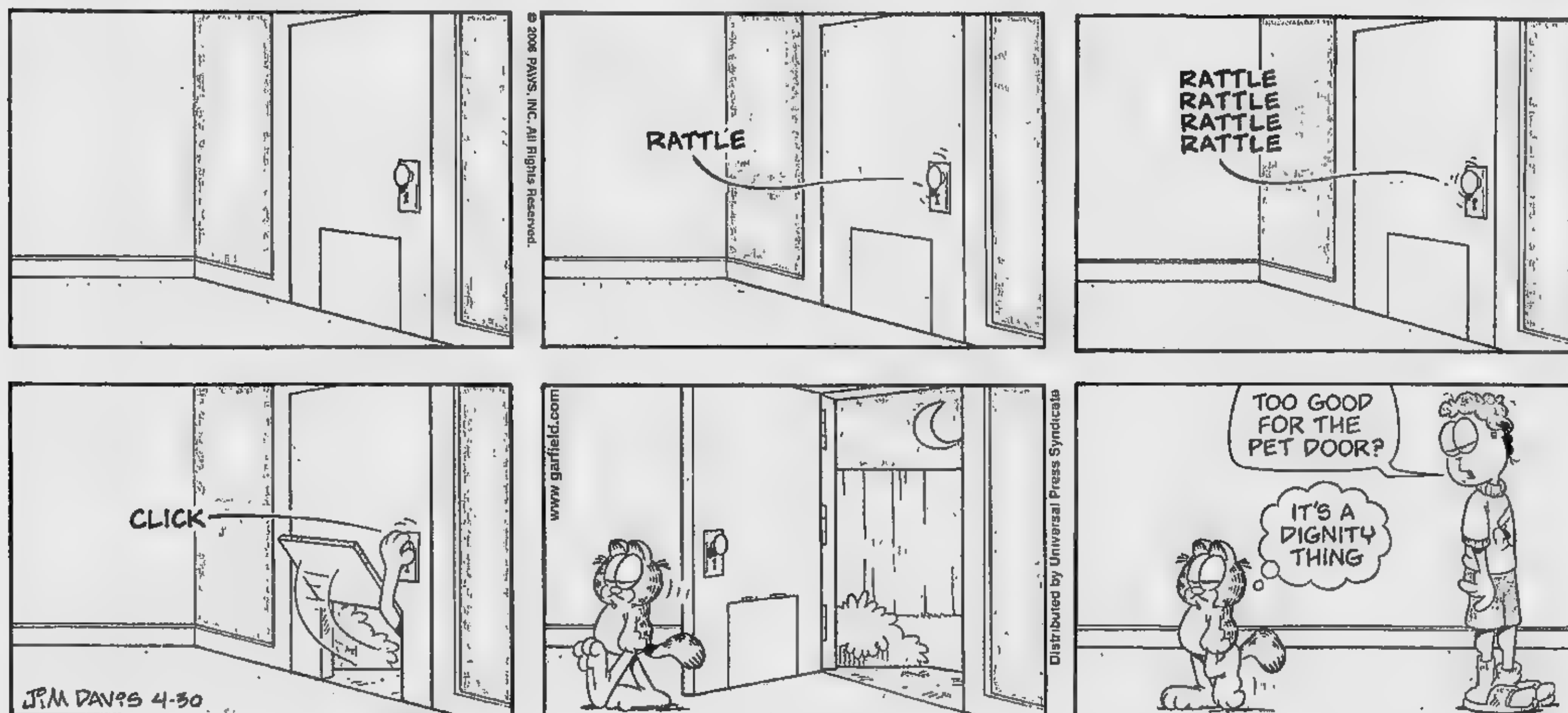
Berry
Almond's
nephew; Ciel's
longtime friend

Prince Byrne
King Feun's
16-year old son

Maria Xana
King Soza's
18-year old daughter

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



July 23, 2006

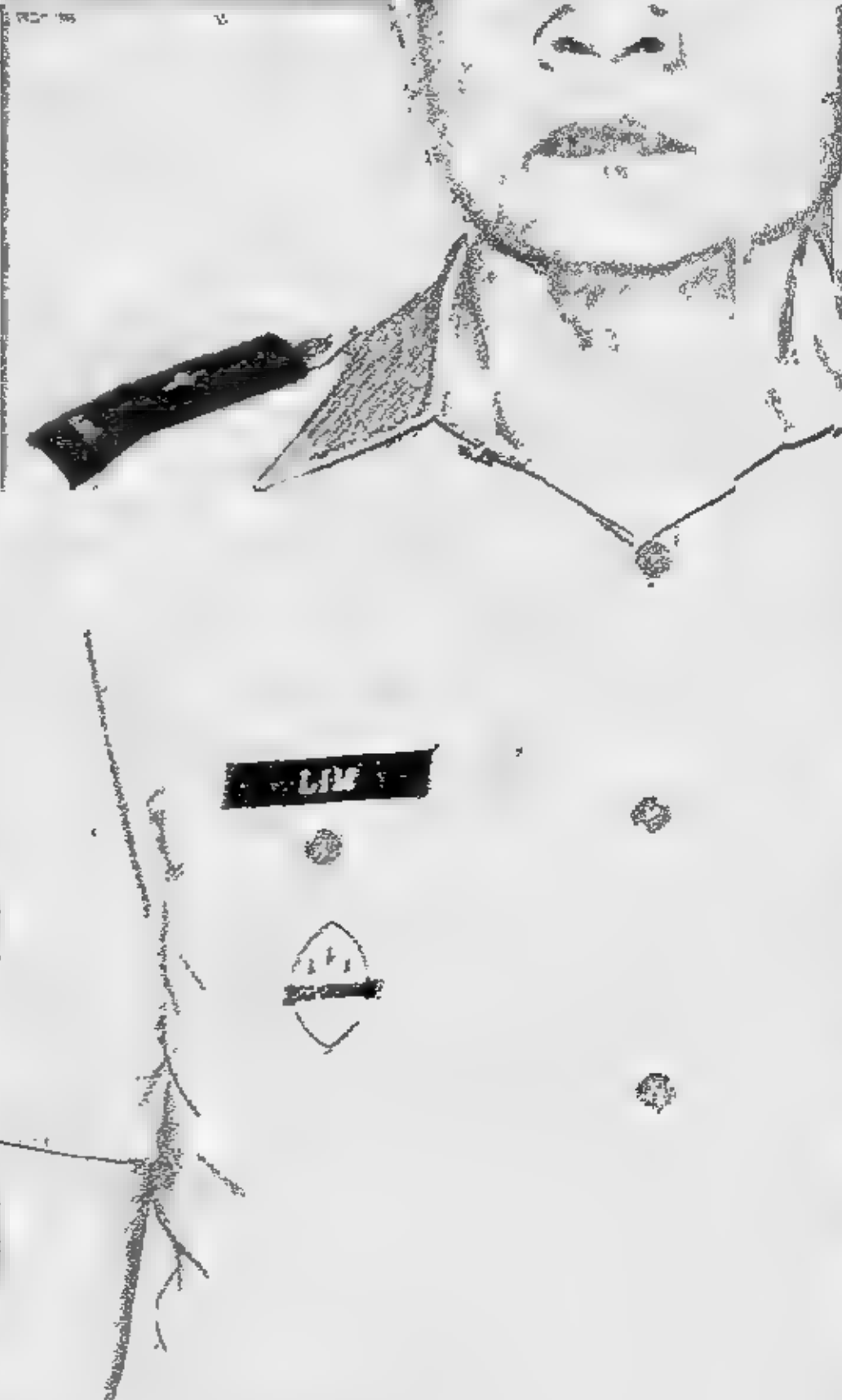
sunday INQUIRER magazine

The military's SWIP very



TACTICIAN: Lim after the failed 1989 coup attempt, above; as a brand new Brigadier General in 2005, above right

Never one to stay in the sidelines, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the brilliant soldier and doting family man who spurned GMA on nationwide TV, would risk all to stand up for what he thinks is right. But has he gone too far this time?



by Fe B. Zamora
photo illustration by Lynett A. Villariba

BRIG. General Danilo Lim has the heart of a civilian trapped in a soldier's battle-scarred body.

"Maybe I should have not been in the military," Lim told a friend who had visited him recently at his heavily-secured military quarters at the Philippine Army Officers' Village (Paovil) in Fort Bonifacio. "I cannot be a fence-sitter; never was, never would be," Lim was also supposed to have said.

Outside his leafy abode, a group of soldiers man a makeshift checkpoint; another group had set up a sentry at the back, beefing up the guards at the Paovil gate, just 20 meters away from Lim's house. Such airtight security arrangements have earned Lim the distinction of being "most important prisoner" in recent coup-prone military history.

To page 2

The sisters strike

The import invades

The widow reflects

Brig. Gen. ...from page 1

Lim has been under military custody since a videotape of himself announcing his withdrawal of support from President Arroyo surfaced in a news program. The tape was to have been used on Feb. 24, when soldiers marching out of their camp were supposed to meet with civilians out in the streets to commemorate the Edsa revolt. It was proof, claims Malacañang, of a Leftist-Rightist plot against the government that justifies Arroyo's proclamation of a state of emergency.

The charges that Lim would lead the conspiracy have surprised those who know him only as an indulgent father to his only daughter, Aika.

Just five years ago, Aika Lim dragged her father to the Cineplex in Glorietta. The older Lim had already forgotten what it was like to watch a movie. "I haven't been inside a movie house since 1973," Lim told the *INQUIRER* then. Transformed from security-conscious officer into a dutiful dad, Lim was having a good time when Aika nudged him to take a closer look at their seatmate. It was Phillip Salvador, the movie actor whose tumultuous love affair with Kris Aquino had been the staple news in those days. Lim was amused, but Aika was adamant. She wanted her Dad to get Phillip's autograph.

Putty

Lim, the hardline Army captain who negotiated that the rebel troops be allowed to return to barracks, weapons and all, can be putty in his daughter's hands. An only child, Aika was a baby when Lim was detained for the December 1989 coup. A former detainee recalled several officers doing "infantry" duties in jail, among them Lim.

Another detainee, an alleged communist leader from Southern Luzon, Vic Ladlad, would be Aika's godfather, a relationship that transcended the ideological divide between Lim and Ladlad. When Aika starred in her school's musical production in 2001, Lim unabashedly invited media friends to watch the play. The souvenir program also showed ad placements from military organizations that could only have come from the solicitation of a very supportive father.



Explain yourself: Lim arrives at the NBI to shed light on his alleged involvement in the failed coup attempt last February 24

A consistent honor student in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Lim was a freshman at the University of the Philippines in Diliman when one of his classmates, Renato Heredia, came to class with application forms for the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). It was 1972. Martial law had just been declared. Lim said he signed up for the heck of it. "There were many who had signed up, so I joined the line," he said. The successful examinees either had brothers at the PMA, like Heredia, or had fathers who were PMA alumni or military officers.

Second highest

Lim, the youngest of five sons of a Chinese migrant worker from Xiamen and a hardworking businesswoman from Bohol, did not top the exams, but the topnotcher backed out, pushing Lim, who had the second highest score, to the top slot. Lim was sent to the US Military Academy in West Point in 1974.

"I would have wanted to be a doctor, but it was too expensive," Lim said. He did not want to burden his mother or four brothers, either. Lim's father died when he was 5 and his mother raised the brood by herself. Since his older brothers finished college on scholarships, Lim felt he too had to get by on scholarship.

Fortunately, Lim found academics, especially the math subjects, a breeze at West Point. The regimented military life also suited him, as he adapted to it seamlessly. Even his marriage was something of a record, according to another classmate. Lim's wife, Aloysia, was actually his neighbor and classmate from elementary to high school. "But there was nothing there then," Lim once told the *INQUIRER*. "The attraction came later."

Upon graduation from West Point in 1978, Lim was sent to Jolo to head the all-Igorot Forward Recon Unit. The unit was often sent out to patrol the enemy lairs, chalking up seemingly endless encounters that had their senior officers shaking their heads in disbelief. A former pilot who sometimes airlifted the wounded recalled in jest that the Igorot troops never realized what they were getting into because Lieutenant Lim kept them drunk with gin.

Wounded twice

But Lim would himself be wounded twice from grenade shrapnel. After his second hospitalization in 1981, then Col. Arturo Enrique sought him out. "He told me, 'I better take you out from here before you run out of luck,'" Lim recalled. From Jolo, Lim was transferred to the PMA, where he taught math subjects. He would also become the aide-de-camp to PMA Superintendent Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel, and administrative officer of PMA Superintendent Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon in 1986.

In March 1987, a bomb exploded at the PMA grandstand, ripping off a roof and wounding several personnel, including then Col. Lisandro Abadía, the PMA commandant of cadets. Lim was among those suspected behind the incident, but this was never proven.

Before the incident, however, Lim had supposedly questioned the alleged anomalous deals at Biazon's office. From the PMA, Lim was transferred to the Scout Rangers, the unit that he led



The truth: Being sworn in to testify before the Davide Commission

in the takeover of the Makati Commercial and Business District in the December 1989 coup.

The Feb. 23 videotape seemed to be an apt follow up. Lim's doubts about President Arroyo's mandate started soon after the May 2004 elections, when rumors circulated in the military circle about how some senior officers had allowed the President's allies to use the military camps in the cheating operations, particularly in Basilan, Sulu, Lanao and Cotabato areas in Mindanao. There were also rumors that some units from the Marines and the Scout Rangers had reportedly refused to cooperate with Malacañang's allies in the military.

Compounding the situation was the alleged braggadocio of some officers who were supposed to have orchestrated the cheating operations, to the consternation of the young officers, including some Rangers who sought out Lim for advice. A senior colonel who talked to Lim then told the *INQUIRER* that he was concerned about the Scout Rangers that Lim headed. "Lim does not believe that GMA won the elections. This is problematic," the colonel said of his former classmate.

Fearless prognosis

Lim's doubts were reportedly shared by many officers, with one of them expressing doubts that the President would be hounded by questions about her mandate. "GMA cannot govern," was his fearless prognosis, as of June, 2004.

The cracks in the military armor surfaced after the June 6, 2005 airing of the "Hello Garci" tapes, the wiretapped telephone conversations between Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcilano and several personalities, including Ms. Arroyo and her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. The tapes seem to confirm allegations of fraud during the May 2004 elections, with at least four generals mentioned in the tapes as being involved. On July 8, 2005, a group of military officers had reportedly planned to withdraw support from the President, joining the group of senior cabinet members who had resigned en masse and urging Ms. Arroyo to do the same for the sake of

national unity.

But Lim prevailed over the disgruntled. Later that month, Lim's group, the now-defunct Young Officers Union (YOU, also issued a statement of withdrawal from the 1995 peace agreement it had forged with the government. Lim denied the YOU statement. He also sent a text message to the *INQUIRER*, to the effect that he was "under pressure from all sides." In fact, Lim was under surveillance from the military and under intense courtship from the opposition. At the necrological rites for Capt. Rene Jarque at the Fort Bonifacio chapel in September 2005, Lim showed up by his lonesome.

Close tabs

But a civilian-clad soldier tailed him, always keeping within earshot of the general. Malacañang also kept close tabs of his activities, often inviting him to dinner at the Palace. By late January 2006, Lim had reportedly visited troops in Mindanao to sound them off about his plans to withdraw support from President Arroyo. An officer he talked with said Lim did not indicate he would "do something" anytime soon. "We talked and he said it was 'no go,'" the officer told the *INQUIRER*. In less than a month, Lim would "go," to the surprise of even his closest friends.

Since Feb. 24 when he was placed under house arrest, Lim has not been allowed to talk to the press. Some have managed to sneak in, however, accompanied by lawyers, priests and relatives. Former *INQUIRER* reporter Andrea Trinidad Echavez visited Lim one day in July. Lim had been Echavez' sponsor at her church wedding to Dick Echavez in 2001.

According to Echavez, Lim was in good spirits, and seemed at peace with himself and the world. "He looks confident that all would end up well," Echavez said. Having hit rock bottom after the 1989 coup, Lim knows only too well how to play his cards. "He's a tactician. He's been through a lot. What is happening to him now is chicken feed," Echavez added.

Besides, people who've met Lim also know that the man would rather pay the price of taking sides than stay still, watching from the sidelines. □

Silence is Clean

Silence sloughs echoes off the walls

It sweeps away footsteps
From floors, leaves surface raw
To the touch of space.

An airy knife, it clears out our flesh,
Leaving skin, stretched taut,
A delicate suspension.

The insides strain
In their hollowness, grind together
Their walls,
Rasping for music.

Perfection can be cruel.

But pain, when tuned perfectly,
Is a feat of balance,
A delicate sawness
At the tip of the knife-edge.

Here it rises,
The final resonance.

Monica S. Macansantos

Evening Prayer

For the record, I have been spending most of my time now talking
To my god. Even if I think he has enough wars to keep his head
Busy. Putting together parts of the many broken bodies scattered
On the universe's war field and resurrecting a soldier's family
Who was told of his death one week after he jumped aboard
The wagon of a war-hungry army. I too have lost a loved one.
I have been praying since for my own resurrection.

Joseph Saguid

The Sunday *INQUIRER* Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday *INQUIRER* Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Maccardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sdm@inquirer.com.ph>

Sunday *Inquirer* Magazine
Vol. 20 No. 21

July 23, 2006
ISSN 01 6 332X

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THE Sunday *INQUIRER* MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Maccardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 local 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sdm@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sdm@inquirer.com.ph.

A childhood disease, artistic genes and an eye for the unusual enabled sisters Waya and Lala Gallardo to top the comics category of the 1st Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards.

All hail Hika Girl!

The art of asthma gave these super sisters comic book cred

LIKE many of the creatures, imagined or otherwise, which inhabit a child's memory, severe asthma seems to lie in wait before pouncing at the most opportune—or inopportune—moment.

Maria "Waya" Gallardo has experienced the respiratory burden of asthma since she was a child. "I was first hospitalized for asthma when I was very young, like 2 years old," Waya remembers. "Asthma kind of made me feel special, in a weird, miserable way. They put me in a big oxygen tent, and people came and visited and brought flowers and said soothing things to me. What's a little girl to think? It was like I was being worshipped and offered pretty flowers to appease my wrath!"

But it wasn't all that easy, either. "I did have to drink 10 different kinds of syrup in the morning and that always meant a drama. And not being able to breathe is never ever fun," she says.

Younger sister Clara "Lala" Gallardo saw how Waya had to deal with it. And together, the sisters have produced a distinctive comic-book tale about those times.

Pioneering contest

"The Mad, Sad, Incredible but True Adventures of 'Hika Girl'" received the Alex Niño Award at the 1st Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards last Saturday. "Hika Girl," written by Waya and illustrated by Lala, topped the comics category in the pioneering contest sponsored by Fully Booked and British comic-book superstar Neil Gaiman.

The tale's protagonist is a young girl who has rats living inside her, hence the asthma. "Hika Girl" then has to deal with the eclectic monsters living in Heli, which is literally located right under her bed. But all is not as it seems because, as the story goes, "the monsters are no one's friends." It's like a child's beguiling fever dream in word and form, a perfect melding of the Gallardos' style and sensibility.

The Gallardos shared many things aside from their current age (29, though Waya is 11 months older). Yet their differences make them a formidable tandem, as Waya is the freelance writer and Lala the freelance graphic artist/illustrator.

The Gallardo sisters come from a creative background, all right. Their father Dominador "Nonoy" Gallardo, runs his own advertising agency, Gallardo and Associates, while mother Celeste Legaspi Gallardo is, well, that Celeste Legaspi, who sang that memorable song, "Sarang-gola ni Pepe," penned by husband Nonoy himself. Grandpa is the late National Artist for Painting Cesar Legaspi. The sisters have an older brother, Miguel or "Ige," who works in advertising and is also a musician.

Waya liked writing but "wrote strictly Sweet Valley High fare back in the day, or pretty princess and her pet unicorn little fantasies that never got finished." She eventually attended the University of the Philippines to study Creative Writing.

Lala took a liking to art early as well. "I used to consume boxes and boxes of Mongol pencils and reams and reams of brown paper," she recalls. "I used to draw on the walls of our house, and I'd get into trouble in school because instead of listening to my teachers I'd be doodling in my notebooks." Lala wanted a career in art and earned a degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines with a major in Art History.

Epic tiffs

The sisters' differences led to some epic tiffs. "We do get along better now that we're older and live apart, but



Waya (left) and Lala have more adventures ahead for Hika Girl

we used to have great big dramatic blow-ups. We used to throw the World Book encyclopedias at each other when we were kids," Waya remembers. Lala says they also share a weird sense of humor. If "Hika Girl" were any indication, it's a very weird sense of humor.

The sisters discovered comic books when they dared venture into "the forbidden zone"—their brother Ige's room, where they would clandestinely read his issues of "X-Men," "Spider-Man" and "Superman." Later on, award-winning writer Luis Katigbak, who was a common friend, led them to Gaiman's superlatively enchanting "The Sandman" series, which fired up the girls' imagination.

Flip forward a few pages and the Gallardos have made quite a name for themselves. Waya had just written and directed a children's musical theater version of "Saranggola ni Pepe," sings in a band called Hong Kong Holiday and runs a home-based baking venture called Taimus Deluxe Cakes and Cookies. "I have delusions of multi-tasking grandeur, as you can see," she admits.

Lala, on the other hand, has decorated theater sets, done illustrations for children and taken part in exhibits. "I'm still on the gradual, progressive road to establishing myself as an artist. I've had a few exhibits and I consider each one to be a small victory in itself," she explains.

The Alex Niño Award, named after the Filipino comics luminary, was a perfect opportunity for them to join forces. Lala had drawn some comics on her own but nothing serious so far. The Gallardos had never collaborated on a comic book before, and this seemed the right chance. "Hika Girl" was Waya's, of

course, and the younger sister in the story is Lala. "I was a *sungit* (grouchy), *arte* (bratty) kid and she was a bit of a tomboy," Waya says. "Actually, I don't think that dynamics have changed much over the years."

Idiosyncrasies

Waya explains: "All her little strange ticks and idiosyncrasies were all the things I used to believe in as a child. I did think mice ran my body, that hell existed right under my house, and if you weren't completely covered up at night, monsters would get you."

But putting the story together proved difficult. "It was taking forever to put down, and Lala was bugging me and pleading that I finish it. We almost didn't do it," Waya says. The deadline was looming when the Gallardos' mother sat them down and, according to Waya, gave them a "St. Crispin's Day sort of speech." The sisters sprung into action, working non-stop for three days. And they made it—30 minutes before the deadline. Lala was so stressed she threw up afterwards.

In the end, the resulting product was meaningful. "I just wanted to make something that was genuine," says Lala. "My style isn't exactly your mainstream, DC-Marvel style of comics illustration. Initially I tried to go for that genre but it seemed stilted, and eventually I chose to draw in a style that was more spontaneous and fun. I naturally draw weird I guess."

For Waya, the project was linked to her admiration for Gaiman: "I really did this because of that crazy Neil Gaiman weekend Fully Booked put up last year. It was just so intense and special an experience, I felt I had to do something, make something in com-

memoration of those three days of screaming and waiting and worshipping and weeping."

Delirious thrill

So it was a delirious thrill for them to hear Gaiman announce "Hika Girl" as the winner, with Gaiman speaking on video from the United Kingdom, where the movie adaptation of his novel "Stardust" is being shot. "A marvelous, haunting, odd little story about a little girl who goes to hell, and her sister, and asthma, and all sorts of other strange things," Gaiman had said of "Hika Girl."

For their win, the Gallardos took home P100,000 with "Hika Girl" to be published in an anthology by Fully Booked at the end of the year; Gaiman will provide the foreword. The Gregorio Brillantes Award, which is given to the winner of the Graphic/Fiction short story category was shared by Michael Co and Ian Rosales Casocot, whose stories will be included in the anthology along with those of the other finalists as well.

Though Waya is still somewhat in shock, she already plans to use part of the prize money on more books. The sisters might treat their mother to a diamond peel. Lala, who had just moved out of their Gallardo home, might save her share for later.

In the meantime, they tend to their divergent and yet tangential lives: Waya boxing, listening to David Bowie, watching the classic Star Trek series and "panning my dream library in my head," while Lala takes care of her kitten Boris, embroiders and dreams of the beach. Apparently, Waya is the more outgoing entertainer between the two while Lala is the more introverted, shy one. "But when we're all together with my brother in karaoke we're all nuts," Lala adds.

Plans galore

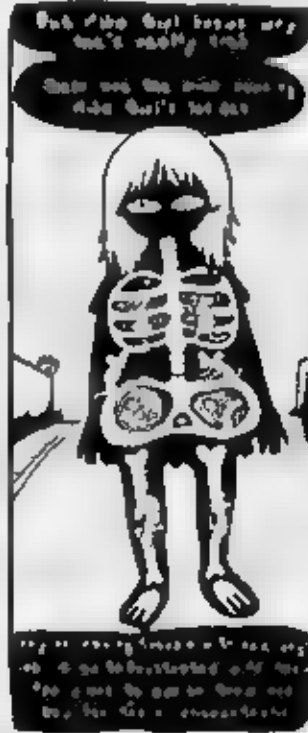
And the busy sisters have plans galore. Lala has an exhibit in Baguio City's Bliss Cafe this coming November and perhaps one at Big Sky Mind as well.

But what's really fueling their ideas is the possible return of Hika Girl. "Most definitely," Lala says.

"We're thinking of making a short animated feature, of course completely ignorant of the actual labor, drama, and spitting cat fights that will inevitably take place when we do make it," Waya says.

Siblings and comic books, after all, are exercises in dreaming things into reality, as the Gallardo sisters are proof of. "I need a certain level of ignorance to attempt seemingly impossible scary things, or else I just won't do them," Waya Gallardo concludes. "And Lala and I will probably kill each other in the process, but we're kinda used to that at this point."

For more information about the 1st Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards, log on to www.fullybookedonline.com



All in the Game

by Jasmine W. Payo

THE SEASON is only four weeks old yet Samuel Ekwe, San Beda College's Nigerian slotman, has already mesmerized hoop mavens.

There are already enough tales of Ekwe's feats, like the time he slammed three monstrous dunks in the opening match, leaped to sweep 23 rebounds in a single game and blocked six shots in another.

A hulking presence at 6'8" and 245 lbs, Ekwe has been undoubtedly a load to contend with in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Ironically, when the topnotch big guy first touched down in the Philippines in August 2005, playing competitive basketball wasn't even in his to-do list.

"I came here mainly to study in a Catholic school," says Ekwe. "I was supposed to study in Canada, but it's a public school. I'm so used to the Catholic culture it's difficult for me to be in a non-Catholic school. It's easier for me to study here."

Fortunately, he adds, a San Beda priest based in Nigeria told him he could study in the Philippines if he really wanted a Catholic education.

Aside from his circuitous route to basketball, Ekwe also has an interesting love-hate affair with the sport that thrust him into the local limelight.

"I've never tried to play basketball on my own. I don't really watch it. I wasn't fond of it," he says, almost rambling.

The basketball, late-bloomer admits he only learned the sport five years ago. And it took some prodding—a very willful one, at that—before he got his big hands to dribble the orange leather.

Number one sport

"It was in school where my coach told me that it's better that I play basketball, and I said no because the number one sport in my country is soccer," he shares. "Basketball is a ladies' sport. It's just like the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) in our country, but it's the ladies who are very good. The men who are good play abroad. So I was just not interested in basketball."

But like an obedient Catholic schoolboy, Ekwe agreed to take his athletic abilities from the soccer field to the hardwood.

"I was just going to try basketball, because you cannot condemn something without testing it. So I said, let me do it. I don't want them to say that I'm not listening to advice," he recalls.

It wasn't only Ekwe, though, who initially met the sport with disdain.



He'd rather play soccer, but San Beda center Samuel Ekwe has found that in his search for a Catholic education, he's chasing after his hoop dream and perhaps, a religious vocation.

This Nigerian tower of power is taking a leap of faith—in more ways than one.

"It almost caused a family rivalry. My brother didn't like it. He said, 'Where did you get that idea?' It was like I introduced a stranger to my family whom they didn't like," he says.

Still, Ekwe worked on his game.

"Who will I compete with?" he asks. "In basketball, I didn't have any team to join. Unlike soccer, everyone in my country can play it."

So it certainly surprised Ekwe when he learned that cage leagues abound in the Philippines. What amuses him, though, is getting raves here for simply being tall.

"My friends in Nigeria, most of them are like me. My height is common enough. There are taller guys who are even younger," he points out.

What he doesn't know is that in this hoop-crazy nation where height is a gift, tall players can sometimes get by on raw ability. But not Ekwe, who's very determined to master the game's fundamentals.

Rebounding machine

"Basketball really takes more time than soccer. And also more of your mind. In soccer, you just need strength. In basketball, you need more skills, more thinking to really play the game," he notes.

Already a rebounding machine, Ekwe averaged 9.8 points, a league-best 15.4 boards and 2.6 blocks in his first five games to lead San Beda to a strong early showing.

The 22-year-old varsity star is running a close second to Philippine Christian University star Gabby Espinas in the statistical race. It's a feat in itself actually because in just a month, Ekwe has managed to be just a step behind the NCAA player who made history by winning both the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year plums in 2004.

Ekwe, however, isn't denying that he also misses playing soccer. "It's the sport I grew up playing," he says. "I even had no time to watch the World Cup. I have to focus on basketball. I practice early in the morning, wake up at 4 and practice from 5 to 8. I cannot be focused on soccer. I can only read the newspaper. You cannot serve two masters."

Interestingly, such biblical allusions flow naturally from Ekwe the same way he easily found a home at the low-post. But with Margaret, a catechism teacher for a mother, it shouldn't come as a surprise at all.

Comfortable life

The fourth in a brood of six, Ekwe lived a comfortable life in Lagos, Nigeria. But there's still a visible tinge of sadness every time he talks about his late father, Benrich, a military doctor who died in an air crash in 1992.

"It was really a painful death. We had many plans. My mother raised us," he recounts. "When I was young, when my father was still alive, we always travelled to the West, to Holland and many other countries."

Ekwe still maintains tight relationships with his siblings—Innocent, Dominic, Michael, Grace, Christopher—and the rest of his extended family.

"Our family is big. We love each other," he shares. "We're also close with my cousins who can get anything without telling me. We're so close that if one of them has a problem, let's say in Mindanao, I will fly there immediately. I'll just go there to solve the problem."

Although he misses his family a lot ("I call them every day," he says), Ekwe has embraced the mundane life in Manila, from the unpredictable weather to the quintessential public transport.

"Manila is like Lagos. The noise here is like Lagos," he says, laughing. "I didn't find it difficult to adjust in the Philippines. The only thing different is the pollution, the humidity."

"When I came here, it was very hot," he adds. "Jeepneys, I have not seen before. It was strange for me. I also have not been in a dormitory school. All these are new. I have not experienced living in a dormitory with other students. So I really enjoy it."

He's so genuinely pleasant that, in fact, San Beda students have nicknamed Ekwe "The Dunking Priest." But the tag, apparently, isn't unfounded.

"Actually, my friend in Nigeria, a priest had suggested that I become one myself, that it's good for me. After basketball, then I become a priest," he says.

But Ekwe quickly turns serious. A religious vocation seems too touchy a subject for this big man with a big faith.

"When it comes to stuff like that, you can't say

that you're planning it," he says. "Only God can call you to become a priest. If God thinks I deserve to serve him in that level, then He'll choose me. I can't just force myself into priesthood."

Ways to serve

He adds: "I always pray to God to make me what He wants me to be and not what I want to be."

He lightens up just as quickly. "If you ask me, I'm going to say I want to be president! But what if God doesn't want me to be president?" he chuckles. "Becoming a priest is not the only way to serve God. There are many ways to serve Him. The number one thing is to become a real human being."

Ekwe, apparently, is as intellectually complex as he is physically gifted.

"What I enjoy doing here is studying," maintains Ekwe, a marketing sophomore. "Basketball is not the main thing that brought me here, it's study. But somebody suggested that I should play the game."

He continues: "I believe in changes. You have to experience the good, the bad. And if you go to places, you'll experience cultures, the qualities of different kinds of life. Then you'll know how to manage your own life."



POI PHOTO

Twists of Fate

by Corazon A. Ong
photo by John Bacasmas

How this newspaperman's widow finally answered her second calling

A child, Edith Burgos dreamed of becoming a nun. "I remember a game I had with my sister—we would don vells. *Parang madre*. (Just like a nun)." In high school, greatly influenced by the nuns, she thought of entering the convent, but her father would have none of it. "My mother, a deeply religious person, did not object, but my father, believing I would simply waste my talent inside the convent, discouraged me from doing so. To him, being good in your everyday life was more than enough to be a child of God."

Born in Tabaco, Albay, Edith describes her parents as "typical," and of the old mold. "Typical in the sense that my mother, who was a teacher, gave up her profession to stay home and take care of the family. Although my mother would often say that my father was the one who made the decisions, our family was matriarchal. She was a perfect mother, and greatly influenced all her six children. Although we were materially poor, we never felt it. She recycled things, bought second-hand clothes, knitted or embroidered them so we looked good. Above all, both my parents inculcated in us the value of an untarnished name."

Call to holiness

At 18, she got her first job teaching nutrition and home economics to high school students. Later on, she would also teach in college and graduate schools. All in all, Edith taught for more than 20 years. Along the way, she met and married journalist Joe Burgos, and together they raised five children. From time to time, however, the thought of serving God inside a convent would still cross her mind. "The call to holiness, according to the Bible, is from birth. It is a calling we may never fully understand—a search for something better," Edith said.

Her search would be answered in 1999 when, by pure chance, she learned about the secular Carmelites. "I was supposed to meet up with Sister Effie Lagman, a former Carmelite nun, at the Gilmore convent. I didn't know my way there and ended up instead in Mt. Carmel Church on Broadway. Then I saw a lady in brown, Gloria Candido, a secular Carmelite, who gave me directions to the Gilmore convent and also invited me to the House of Prayer of the secular order of the Discalced Carmelites (OCDS) which is just behind Mt. Carmel Church. She also invited me to attend their community meeting held every first Sunday of the month," Edith recalled.

On reaching home, Edith immediately told Joe about the secular Carmelites and of her wish to attend their community meeting. "Sunday is sacred to Joe. It is our family day, when everyone, including the married children, would come to the farm in San Miguel, Bulacan so we could all be together. But then, true to my husband's character, if he sees that you really want to do something, he will support you."

Seeking serenity

And support his wife he did, in more ways than one. Joe not only drove Edith to the OCDS House of Prayer the first time she attended the community meeting; he even heard Mass in the chapel inside the House. "He liked the serenity of the place and felt so much at peace there, it practically became a routine for us to hear Mass in the chapel every Sunday. In my case, when I stepped inside the House of Prayer, I felt so much at peace. People were so friendly, treating me like they had known me for a long time. When I met Joe afterwards, he must have seen that I was glowing," Edith said.

She grew up wanting to be a nun, but instead became a wife to press freedom fighter Joe Burgos. Today, after taking her vows as a secular Carmelite, Edith Burgos has proven that it's never too late to find ways to follow your heart



Indeed, she had finally found her way to answer God's call. Joining the secular Carmelites was a fulfillment of her childhood dream, serving God yet continuing her role as wife and mother and living in the outside world. "We live in the world according to our state of life. Secular Carmelites come from all walks of life—young, old, single, married, male, female, doctor, school dean, laborer, psychologist, domestic help and lawyer, among other professions. I came to the order by accident, but others were brought there by their relatives or friends. Each of us has our gift, so we contribute our talent in whatever way we can."

Edith comes to the House of Prayer three or four days a week. Apart from praying and reflection, she helps encode handouts and other printed materials, answers calls, does faxing and photocopying, helps out in their newsletters and drives. "Actually, I learned to drive in 1982, but it was only recently that I got the courage to go on long-distance drives like Baguio or Bicol, for instance. I also learned how to set up a sound system and projectors in record time. *Basta makatulong sa anumang paraan, kahit maghugas ng pinggan o magbitbit ng mga gamit*. (As long as I could be of help, even in washing the dishes or carrying things)," she said.

Life of silence

In January 2004, about two months after Joe passed away, Edith volunteered to work in the secretariat of OCDS Philippines. "I went with a team of lecturers, headed by a priest. Often we would just use his pick-up and I would alternate with the priest in driving the vehicle. *Siguro hinabilin ako ni Joe sa Carmelites*. (Perhaps, Joe left me in the care of the Carmelites)."

Like all would-be secular Carmelites, Edith had to undergo several stages in her vocation. In 1999, she started as an observer, trying to see if a life of silence, solitude and prayer would suit her. In 2000, she entered the next stage as an aspirant, at the end of which she was given a brown scapular. (Carmelite nuns are given their habits at the end of their aspirancy.) In 2001-2002, she entered the third stage as a novitiate. In June 2003, she took her temporary promise, and in June this year, Edith made her definitive promise, meaning a lifetime commitment as a secular Carmelite, following the vows of obedience, chastity and poverty.

She almost did not make it for her formation in June 2003, because Joe just had his second heart attack and was confined at the ICU of the Philippine Heart Center. She failed to attend the required retreat before the formation, but her formator understood her situation. "As a married woman, my

priority then was still my husband, and I did not want to leave his side. But Joe told me to go ahead, saying that all the children were there to look after him. To persuade me, he even added, *'Isang oras lang naman yun at makabalik ka agad.'* (It will only take an hour anyway, and you can return here immediately.)" Then he asked Peachy, our daughter, to bring to the hospital my brown dress, which I was to wear for the occasion. So, I went and made it just in time for the formation. Unlike the other novitiates, who came with their families, I came by myself. When my formator saw me, she cried. I did not cry then, but on my way out, I saw my youngest son, JL, with a bouquet of deep orange roses. *Sabi niya, Mommy, padala ni Daddy. Doon na ako napaiyak*. (He said, 'Mommy, this is for you from Daddy.' That was when I really cried)."

Definitive promise

That was three years ago. This year, when she took her definitive promise, not only her five children were around to witness the ceremony, but also her mother, her sister and four brothers, three of whom came all the way from Bicol. "It was meant to be a surprise for me because I was only expecting my mother, sister and two daughters. All my brothers told me earlier they would be too busy to make it. There were no roses this time, but my children gave me a bouquet of flowers. I guess they did not want me to be sad because roses would have reminded me of their Dad."

Edith admits that, after Joe passed away, she had been sad many times, but God has always been good to her. "God has given me the grace to overcome problems, economic or otherwise. It is true that He will never abandon you." Just recently a fire hit a neighboring farm to the Burgos' property, a fire which also razed 62 clumps of matured bamboo trees on the Burgos property. Each clump had 10-20 bamboo trees ready for cutting and selling. "We depend heavily on those bamboos to pay the salary of the farm hands," Edith recalled. "It was really a big loss, but like a miracle, after our workers cleared the burned area, some 18 fruit-bearing mango trees came into view. Joe had planted those trees a long, long time ago, but because they were far away and completely hidden from view, we forgot all about them."

At this point in her life, Edith just wants to give back all the graces that God has given her. "God calls us in different ways so we must learn how to listen when we pray. We must be open and learn to listen with our hearts. In the end, if you will not follow Him, you will find something lacking in your life and you won't be happy."

Young, hip and cool for success,

they've found the good life



at their fingertips

Young turks: Tan and Canizares could be virtual millionaires, thanks to the Internet

T WOULD hardly seem like Mark Canizares, single and 27, has the ability to influence the Philippine stock market investor. In sleek rubber shoes and with a mailman's bag slung across his chest, he appears more like a fresh graduate, particularly when he gels his hair into spikes.

But financial analysts shouldn't be judged by their appearance. These number crunchers validate a company's growth prospects based on financial data and company developments. Their task is to draw up financial models and forecast the earning potential of listed companies so that investors can decide if they should buy, sell or just hold on to a stock.

As such, Canizares and analysts like him enjoy a special kind of clout on their main audience: investors, fund managers, and the movers and shakers of the stock exchange. Ordinary investors, who would otherwise not be able to easily sort out developments and trends that affect the stock market, depend on them to gather reports from companies, examine and filter available information and provide an opinion on their impact on share prices.

In the past few years, the analyst's clout has further strengthened. With the free flow of information through the internet, trading has become borderless, and capital has begun moving around the world, seeking the best deals in bourses from New York to London to Hong Kong. Consequently, the overall demand for analysts specializing in specific markets has increased.

Entrepreneurial spirit

Like many of his peers, Canizares, who majored in legal management at the Ateneo de Manila University and is based in Manila, has been offered jobs by foreign houses but prefers the less rigid structure and the entrepreneurial

Thanks to online stock trading, financial analysts

Mark Canizares and April Lee Tan remain in touch with the global market without ever leaving home

spirit of Filipino companies. Should he decide to work in a foreign house, he would be restricted to a lot of internal compliance and approvals before he could generate a report. Such a setup would simply be too confining for the would-be lawyer who found his true calling after taking elective finance classes on his junior year.

Canizares clarifies that he may not have the exalted position of being an analyst for an international brokerage firm, but his work experience, exposure and knowledge allow him to be at par with the best in the industry. He currently works as a senior analyst at Citiseconline, a leading online stock brokerage firm with a broker license in the Philippines. Canizares is primarily in charge of research on Hong Kong companies, but being conversant with both the HK exchange and the Philippine Stock Exchange, he is often tapped as a resource person for local financial reporters.

Occasionally, he is also featured on Bloomberg Television and is seen by audiences around the world. This thrills his parents no end, although like majority of the population, they cannot fully explain to friends what their son discusses on TV. After seeing Mark build a career over seven years from budding researcher to senior analyst, dad Mario and mom Morena are now only beginning to understand interest rates, company developments and the other factors that drive shares up and down. Mario is a senior executive in an international engineering firm while Morena is an optometrist.

Getting through

"But I think I am now getting through," says Canizares. "Dad sometimes asks me the impact of some policies on exchange rates, interest rates and stuff, to help him in his business dealings."

Like Canizares, Citiseconline Research Head, April Lee-Tan, 31, is also well-regarded by the brokerage community as a reliable analyst. Moreover, the sweet-faced Tan, who holds a management engineering degree from Ateneo, has hurdled the requirements needed to become a Chartered Financial Analyst. Her CPA status means she has passed the globally recognized standard for measuring the competence and integrity of investment professionals. To date, there are around 100 CFAs in the Philippines.

Tan's mother is justifiably proud that April, the only girl among four siblings, can hold her own against the men in the family. Tan's father invests in stocks while her older brothers, who have post graduate degrees from top universities in the United States, are working in Fortune 500 companies. Her mother, a housewife, has started to catch on,

says Tan. "She has a vague idea of what I do and allows me to guide her investments. When she makes money, we both are happy."

Sharing a dream

Both Canizares and Tan share the dream of seeing more Filipinos make the most of investment opportunities provided by the stock market. They observe that online trading has simplified the process of investing in the bourse, which they claim is unmatched in its ability to make investments grow. Historically, the stock market has given higher returns than time deposits, T-bills and other investment instruments. Furthermore, market information and timely research reports can now be broadcast efficiently and transparently. There are now online tools that allow investors to configure a stock watch list so that they can track the progress of their favorite stocks throughout the trading day.

Analysts like Canizares and Tan also freely share their opinions on company developments with their clients. Says Tan: "Our job is to piece together figures like sales, earnings, and the like to be able to project how a company will fare in the future. Numbers can tell you what's really going on in a company—both good and bad."

One of Canizares' favorite examples is Esprit, one of the HKEx companies he covered early on and honored with a BUY recommendation. Four years ago, its share was priced at HK\$13. Today, it is worth HK\$60, affirming Canizares' assessment that the firm was a good investment.

Proven right

Tan recalls that in the early days of Globe Telecom, most analysts didn't think it would be as successful as it is today because it was spending huge sums on building up its GSM network. But Tan's hunch was that switching to GSM would allow Globe to offer more features and win more subscribers. She continued to write comments that were not popular then, and was eventually proven right. The surge in Globe's stock price gave her a big thrill. Investors who heeded Tan's advice bought the stock at a low of P232 in 1999 and made a killing as the stock rose to as high as P1,180 in 2004. It is now priced at P910.

Online trading has also allowed Tan and Canizares to benefit from opportunities in markets abroad without having to leave the country. For now, Tan is happy to be close to her family in Manila as she and her entrepreneur husband raise their 4-year-old daughter and anticipate the birth of another child. Moreover, their jobs have given them the means to soon buy the house of their dreams.

For his part, Canizares' work affords him time for movies, photography as a hobby and ultimate frisbee on Wednesdays on top of quarterly trips out of the country and annual vacations abroad. "Why leave the country, when I can now access global markets from here—thanks to online trading? I have the best of both worlds," he says.

Poetry

Postcard

Gaya ng paglalambing mo, anak, tuwing may naibigan kang manika ang pagsusumamo nitong postcard na makaabot sa iyong palad. Ang tanawang naririto ay hindi nagpapahinga, laging nagmamadali, nakikipagkarera sa mga naghahabulang flaw sa kawad ng mga palasyong nakatitik sa sinasamba naming daigdig. Hindi ito natutulog kahit nagsupot ang puyat sa mata; at kung umidlip man, panindalian—saglit na saglit lang, at muli—handang sabayan ang parada't pasada ng biyahe't bagahe. Takipilim ang nagtatakdang piyesta ng mga bombilya. Hindi ko nasakihan ang rangya ng mga piging na itong karaniwan na sa kanilang pinagpalang paglibhan. Kaya ito ang napili kong ipadala sa iyo—tanawang sa kalendaryo ko unang nasilayan; at ngayong nakakapiling ay hindi nakikita. Nakakapiling. Hindi nakikita ang pangarap sa madaling araw na nakakaulayaw ko ang pook na itong dinidilig ng aming nanlalamig na pawis.

Tuwing pumupula ang silangan at bubulaga sa tabukap ang nagtatayuang gusali, nananariwa sa aking ulirat ang nangbubudhing gabing dapat ay gabay mo ang palad ko habang gumuguhit ka ng mga bahay, simbahan, palasyo. Ang puso ko ay nangingingit sa lamig ng pangungulila; ngunit, sumusulat ang bigla't ng bawat karton ng padala. Kaya may naguguhong gusali sa aking kaloob-looban bawat umagang sinasalanta ako ng kawalang-katayuan—ng katayuan na may nawawala sa bawat umaga. Niyebe lamang bang matuwana sa aking buhok ang kamingaw na itong hukob ng pangarap? Tulad lamang ba ito ng pamimilog ng luha sa tuwing makaabang ang palad sa duming iliri ng pasyente, sa tuwing ihi, iyak, ilag, lirap, lidlip?

Alam mo, anak, minamasdan ko ang langit nito bawat labas ko ng ospital. At kahit sa inuupahang silid ay sinasalar ko sa salaming dingding ang pagtatagpo ng mga hugis-pakpak na ulap at ng aso ng kinakanaw na salabar. Nagling gawi ko ito sa bawat umagang iniekidan sa kalendaryo ang nagdaraang piyesta—ang pagdama sa nakakapiling; ngunit, hindi nadarama. Nakakapiling ko, anak, ang tanawang ito; subalit, kahit anong ibig kong abutan ang aridap ng mga liwanag ay piririg na hindi masalis sa paningin ang dugo't plama, ang mga tubo't nakina sa katawan ng di-kababayang sinasamba. Hindi nagpapahinga ang tanawang ito, anak, laging nagmamadali. At sa balat ng hindi kakulay, kahit wala kang tulog, ang palad mo ay liwanag na hindi nazantok.

Winton Lou G. Ynion

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People, Events & Products

Citigroup Microfinance wins FT Sustainable Deal of the Year Award

THE FINANCIAL TIMES (FT) RECENTLY announced the winners of the FT Sustainable Banking Awards, the first global awards programme designed to recognize banks that have shown leadership and innovation in integrating social, environmental and corporate governance objectives into their operations.

Citigroup and its Mexican affiliate Banamex won the "Sustainable Deal of the Year" award for placing the first ever peso-denominated investment grade bond for Mexico's leading microfinance provider Financiera Compartamos, helping to finance an expected 60,000 new loans to women micro-entrepreneurs in the country. The issue, conducted in September 2005 with IPC, was more than three times oversubscribed, opening a tremendous investor base for future growth.

The Citigroup team was also commended in the bankers of the year category for exemplary leadership in integrating environmental and social policies across the global operations of the group.

In the Philippines, Citigroup launched in May

the fourth run of the Citigroup Microentrepreneur of the Year awards which is held in association with the Citigroup Microentrepreneurship Awards being held simultaneously this year in 24 countries globally.

The "Citigroup 2006 Microentrepreneur of the Year Awards (MOTY)", a nationwide search for outstanding Filipino microentrepreneurs, is funded by Citigroup Foundation and implemented locally in partnership with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Microfinance Council of the Philippines Inc (MCPD).

This year's distinguished members of the National Selection Committee include BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., Citigroup country officer Sanjiv Vohra, Antonino Alindogan Jr., Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Tessie Sy-Coson, Lance Gokongwei, Jose Ma. Concepcion III, Mariti Rufino-Prieto, Stacey Morse, Dr. Mario Lamberte and Jose "Pepe" Navarro.

The MFIs are currently screening nominations and the deadline for submission to MCP is until Aug. 4. The awarding ceremony is slated in November.

Globe, Innove co-sponsor eGovernance confab

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING value and competence in the IT sector, Globe Telecom and Innove Communications have lent their support to the Chief Information Officers Forum Inc (CIOF) as the major sponsors of the eGovernance conference.

Held last May 19, at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City, the conference carried the theme "The 3C's (Competence, Character, and Capability)."

About 175 Chief Information Officers (CIOs) and information technology (IT) planners from the public and private sectors convened to discuss values and competence in IT and network with each other.

The whole-day affair was divided into morning and afternoon sessions.

After the welcome remarks delivered by CIOF presi-

dent Atty. Ivan John Uy, Civil Service Commissioner Chair Karina C. David opened the morning session with an inspiring and candid keynote talk on ethics and the traits of a good public servant, while challenging government CIOs to practice these in their respective agencies. This was followed by a discussion on values and their importance, the different kinds of government, the issues on corruption, and the need for transparency and integrity by Ms. Cynthia Mamon, president and CEO of Sun Microsystems. Dr. Ana Maria Tabunda of Pulse Asia presented results of a public perception survey on government which showed the public's poor regard for several government agencies identified as graft-prone. Colonel Van Lupo of the PNP Computer Service ended the morning session with a talk on strategies for enforcing values in the public sector.

The afternoon session started with a keynote address about competence in government from newly appointed Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) Chairman Ramon Sales. After the keynote address, Globe Telecom CIO Mr. Rodell Garcia followed with a talk on the best IT practices in the private sector and how the government can benefit from adopting them. Mr. Leonardo Santos of NEC discussed the various activities that his company has embarked on for good governance and showcased the transformation of NEC Philippines into a Filipino Company. American Power Conversion (APC), on the other hand, made a presentation on the need for reliability and business continuity. Capping the afternoon session was a talk by Mr. Gerry Pavila, president of Ayala Systems, Inc., who spoke of the challenges their company faced as a supplier to government contracts.

While Globe and Innove were the exclusive telecom participants as Platinum sponsors of the eGovernance conference, the event was also supported by Sun Microsystems, APC, and NEC as Gold sponsors.

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GCash, GlobeSolutions and GQUEST booths outside the conference room, along with a showcase of other Globe and Innove services for small and medium enterprises.

GCash booths were set up outside the conference room by Globe through its subsidiary G-Xchange, Inc. (GX) to let the participants experience the power of Globe's cashless and cardless mobile commerce solution especially its remote bills payment service called GCash Bills Bilis Bayad. Aside from bill payments, GCash can also facilitate domestic and international remittances, micro-payments, micro-credit settlements, tuition fee payments, remote prepaid, internet and gaming credit reloading, and even salary and commission disbursement anytime and anywhere.

Booths were also provided by GlobeSolutions and GlobeQUEST, to showcase Globe and Innove wireless and wireline corporate services, as well as products designed to support small and medium enterprise requirements.

G-Xchange, Inc. (GX) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom in charge of its mobile commerce initiatives. It was also set up for the purpose of developing, designing, administering, managing, and operating software applications and systems for mobile

BPI WORLDPERKS EXPRESS CREDIT MASTERCARD CARD LAUNCH



MasterCard, Bank of the Philippine Islands and Northwest Airlines announced the launch of the BPI WorldPerks Express Credit MasterCard card, the Philippines' first airline co-brand chip credit card. The new comprehensive travel card offers unique "Pa-Milya" features - cardholders can earn miles automatically with ease when they spend. They can also enjoy these miles without an expiry date while having the luxury of transferring them to their family. In addition the card is accepted at 24 million MasterCard acceptance locations worldwide and offers cardholders secure transactions because of chip technology. Seen in photo during the launch are (from left), Jose Rene Villa-Real, vice president and senior country manager, MasterCard International, Philippines, Perry Cantanutti, managing director, marketing and distribution, Asia, Northwest Airlines, and Myra Sylianlang, senior vice president, BPI.

Five P1 Million winners
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